Daily Report

Latin America

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Portugal's Soares Discusses Private 'Chat' With Castro

PY2207010393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Jul 93 p 16

[Article by George Vidor]

[Text] During breakfast with a group of intellectuals and journalists on 20 July in Rio de Janeiro, Portuguese President Mario Soares revealed that he had a chat with Fidel Castro during a break in the Third Ibero-American Summit held last week in Salvador and just after Castro had made his pathetic appeal for solidarity.

"Putting disagreements aside, I told the commander that he had to help us in freeing the political prisoners and reestablishing democratic freedom because we needed an argument in order to mediate with the Americans in Cuba's favor. Fidel answered several times with a thank you, and with that bearing of courtesy that is usual in him, he made several comments on the Cruzeiro do Sul lapel pin I was wearing, and then he left," Soares recalled.

Like many other leftist intellectuals in Europe, Soares acknowledged that he had admired Castro and [Ernesto] Che Guevara at the beginning of the Cuban revolution.

"But 30 years have passed now and with a lack of political freedom the Cuban situation is tragic. One has to ask oneself whether the U.S. economic blockade is responsible for that situation, or the result of it. I once again compared Fidel with the dinosaurs, which were giant animals in their era, but they disappeared at the dawn of history."

Soares admits that he is of the political left, but he highlights the fact that "the Portuguese do not like to put all their eggs in one basket."

"At times they will elect a leftist president and choose the right for the government, and then they will invert the roles."

The Portuguese president expressed enormous concern about the escalation of the civil war in Angola.

"It is another Bosnia, but the world has not yet come to grips with this fact. In the collective imagination of the Portuguese, Angola is a second Brazil. And there is no possible solution because either of the two parties (UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]) will disregard them."

It is the Portuguese president's evaluation that Africa is in a worse state 30 years after decolonization and that in most cases it is the Europeans themselves who are to blame for this state of affairs because they supported dictators and corrupt governments. In the case of the African Portuguese-speaking countries, decolonization was delayed 15 years because of a drawn-out war that led the idealists to seek support from the former Soviet sphere.

Despite Africa's problems, Soares expressed his enthusiasm for the potential of the Luso-Brazilian Foundation for the Development of the Portuguese Speaking World.

"I visited Goa, India, which had not been visited by a Portuguese leader for 30 years. When I speechified, the people asked me to continue in Portuguese because they were capable of understanding the language. Reports from Eastern Timor indicate that Portuguese is still spoken when there are no Indonesian police in the vicinity. Indonesia occupied the possession."

The president also talked about the new and difficult phase of integrating his country's economy with that of the EC, the experience of revising his country's Constitution, and the political system of cohabitation within the government.

"Sometimes we have disagreements with the prime minister over foreign affairs and security, but in general they are overcome politically."

Cuba

Fidel Castro Attends Opening of Sao Paulo Forum

FL2107165893 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The meeting of the Fourth Sao Paulo Forum has just begun at the Convention Center in Havana, with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro in attendance. Some 100 of the region's political parties and movements are participating in this sort of (?consensus-building roundtable) at which the main topic of discussion will be the evolution of the economic, political, and social situation in Latin America. Outstanding regional figures are attending the forum, where delegations from North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa are also present, as invited guests.

Activities Update

FL2207142493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The most important thing is that people at this forum are talking extensively, democratically, and openly, one way or another. Everyone concurs on two key points: the failure of the policy of neoliberalism and the dangers inherent in the hegemony of imperialism. Something else: People ranging from the Center to the Left have gathered here—that is, there is a very broad range of leanings represented; but all these people of all these different inclinations are strongly criticizing neoliberalism and hegemony by imperialism.

Havana Notes Argentine Party Apology for Menem Statement

FL2207142193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The hundred-year-old Argentine party Radical Civic Union, the nation's foremost opposition force, has apologized to all the peoples of Latin America, and especially to the people of Cuba, for the recent attacks by Carlos Menem, who went so far as to say: I am revolted at having participated in the Third Ibero-American Summit along with Fidel Castro.

Mora Reaffirms Rejection of Human Rights Rapporteur

FL2207152093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Cuba has affirmed in Geneva that the resolute will to uphold its independence and sovereignty is not up for discussion at any table despite efforts to strangle its people by hunger with a brutal economic blockade. This position was presented by Ivan Mora, the Cuban delegate to the UN Economic and Social Council that is analyzing the issue of human rights in Geneva. Mora stressed that despite the efforts of a minority of powerful and close friends of the empire to find pretexts to carry out aggressions of every kind, Cuba, above all, will never put at stake the dream of all its children: liberty.

Mora described the report presented by the special rapporteur as biased and manipulated by information from organizations with direct ties to the U.S. Government. Mora added: Cuba reaffirms that it will not accept the imposition of a special rapporteur resulting from biased, selective, and discriminatory procedures with which they attempt to treat Cuba in the same manner as other nations where massive and flagrant human rights violations prevail. The Cuban delegate added that certain countries that take upon themselves the right to judge the countries of the south do not even have the courage to face their domestic situations, which are 10 times worse than those they criticize.

Impoverishing Effects of Neoliberalism Denounced

FL2207183593 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1403 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Like other Latin American countries, Uruguay is quickly deteriorating because of the neoliberal economic model, said Uruguayan Communist leader Marina Arismendi. Arismendi, an official of the general secretariat of the Communist Party of Uruguay [PCU], made this observation to the press during a short recess at the fourth Sao Paulo Forum. This forum, made up of movements and groups from the Latin American Left, began yesterday and will end 24 July.

In the name of the Broad Front, consisting of the PCU and another 17 entities of the same leaning, she stressed the need for integration in Latin America, because, she said: We are all suffering from the same ill, neoliberal strategy. The Uruguayan Communist leader explained: It is a new form of dependency by means of which Yankee imperialism imposes its hegemony on the region's peoples, and its scheme directly affects political and social matters.

Vice President Terms Athletes' Desertion Inevitable

PA2207221093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2240 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Havana, 20 Jul (NOTIMEX)—Alluding to the incident in which three Cuban athletes deserted their delegation during the recent University Games, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, affirmed on 20 July that desertions by Cuban athletes are inevitable.

Fernandez, who yesterday presided over the inauguration of the Central American and Caribbean Swimming Championship, noted that "everybody can do as he pleases; they did not have to use the villa to leave." The deserters were disloyal to the team and to the country they represented, Fernandez said.

Regarding measures to avoid these desertions, Fernandez said that these desertions are inevitable. He

noted: "We send athletes on the basis of competitive merit. We do not adopt any of these measures. Theirs are personal decisions."

The president of the National Institute of Sports, Conrado Martinez, has said that "it is their business. There have always existed people who for economic reasons, bewitched by capitalist societies, decide to desert our ranks."

Using a more conciliatory tone he noted: "I don't dwell on the two who stayed behind but instead concentrate on the thousands who travel representing us; they unassumingly and unpretentiously defend their fatherland and who do not sell out to the rich enemy."

Martinez said that this is an inevitable, personal situation. He said that desertions have been and are still the exception to the rule and usually involve one or two, or perhaps three or four, athletes wanting to emigrate. For this reason, he noted, there will be no reprisal against them or their relatives.

Conrado Martinez stated: "The strength of Cuban sports resides within the country—which trains, feeds, outfits, and sends its athletes on trips throughout the world. The only punishment the deserters face is rejection by their communities and their countrymen for forsaking the fatherland."

Mexico's PFCRN To Sponsor Cuban Solidarity Day

FL2207152493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Nelson Notario Castro in Mexico City—live]

[Text] [Excerpt] The Party of the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction [PFCRN] has called for a national day of solidarity with Cuba, on the occasion of the 26 July commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison. Next Sunday, on the eve of this celebration, the PFCRN will hold ceremonies in over 1,000 Mexican towns and cities in salute to 26 July. We talked to PFCRN Secretary General (Jorge Amador) about this matter. [passage omitted]

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 17 Jul to 21 Jul

FL2207150393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 17 July and 21 July.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 17 July reports that Jose Ramon Machado Ventura attended a youth assessment assembly on the Isle of Youth.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 19 July report that Candido Palmero attended a congress in Artemisa to mark the 40th anniversary of the Moncada attack.

The same newscast reports that in Santiago de Cuba, Esteban Lazo and Maria Garcia chaired a meeting at a national ceremony marking the end of the school year. It is further reported that in Holguin, Yadira Garcia and Juan Contino participated in a ceremony of Pioneers celebrating National Children's Day.

Radio Progreso at 1100 GMT on 19 July reports that Jose Ramon Machado Ventura attended a PCC assessment assembly in Cienfuegos. Nelson Torres was also in attendance and called for increased efforts to overcome the current difficult conditions.

Radio Reloj at 1400 GMT on 19 July reports that Esteban Lazo spoke at a Santiago de Cuba Committee for the Defense of the Revolution assessment meeting.

Radio Rebelde Network at 1700 GMT on 19 July reports that Pedro Ross Leal, secretary general of the Cuban Workers Federation, toured the El Rubio, Seis Estrellas, and San Jorge agricultural camps in Batabano. At the conclusion of his tour Ross praised the efforts of the workers in preparation for the 40th anniversary of the Moncada attack.

Cuba Vision Network at 2220 GMT on 19 July reports that Cienfuegos municipalities have concluded the assessment meetings of the province. All assemblies agreed on the importance of the sugarcane program. Several municipalities highlighted the importance of developing efficiency plans to conserve energy. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Nelson Torres participated in today's meeting.

Radio Reloj at 1959 on 20 July reports that Alfredo Hondal Gonzalez participated in a banner-awarding ceremony marking the creation of the 12th brigade of the Lenin Agrarian Contingent that works at the Venezuela Agroindustrial Complex in Ciego de Avila Province. This contingent was formed by on the of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro following the halt of construction at the Juragua Nuclear Plant.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 21 July reports that Alfredo Hondal closed the first plenum on tourism held in Ciego de Avila Provinces.

Radio Reloj at 1410 GMT on 21 July reports that Esteban Lazo has sent the people of Contramaestre a congratulatory message on the occasion of Contramaestre's having won the right to host the provincial ceremony in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada Garrison. He congratulated the people of Contramaestre for their efforts and stressed the importance of the tasks now awaiting them.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 21 July report that Maria de los Angeles Garcia attended a meeting held on 20 July at the Ministry of

Higher Education to conclude the current school year. This same newscast reports that the process of assessment undertaken at the municipal level by the Communist Party of Cuba has concluded in Ciego de Avila Province. Alfredo Hondal says he expects to be able not only to resist but to make progress, as regards priority tasks.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 21 July report that Maria de los Angeles Garcia attended a meeting on 20 July at the Ministry of Higher Education to conclude the current school year.

The televison networks also announce that the process of assessment at the municipal level by the Communist Party of Cuba has concluded in Ciego de Avila Province. Alfredo Hondal says he expects to be able not only to resist but to make progress on priority tasks.

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Haiti

Dupiton Explains 'Sense of Sacrifice' in New York Accord

FL2207135393 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Excerpts] On 20 July, Senator Dupiton presented the New York accord signed on 17 July. With colleagues, he explained that this accord should help normalize the situation in the parliament and allow the suspension of economic sanctions upon the end of the political crisis. By agreeing to separate himself temporarily from some of the senators elected on 18 January, Thomas Eddy Dupiton hopes to meet them again. He confessed on 20 July to the press that although the decisions were painful, the sacrifice was not too great to end the political crisis.

Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin recording] [Jean] The time in the wilderness is almost over, according to Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton, who already has a glimpse of the end of the tunnel, thanks to the New York pact, a pact of sacrifice. The sense of sacrifice is so strong in the Artibonite senator that he would rather incur the wrath of contemporary jurists than be shamed by history.

He called journalists to witness: To sacrifice nine colleagues even temporarily, and to risk losing his privileges as president, Sen. Dupiton simply asserted, is not too great a price to reestablish peace. He adds that the accord heralds great hope.

The senator-president of the Alliance reaffirmed his faith in this pact which shows the virtue of realistic dialogue, according to him. The results of the meeting did not disappoint his hopes even though he did not obtain the immediate sanction suspension he continues to request. However, it should be pointed out that Sen. Dupiton, for the first time, showed better feelings toward the international community.

Speaking of Dante Caputo, he pointed out, quote: The nice OAS/UN mediator helped us hope for a durable solution to the crisis. [no ending quote as heard] Questioned on his future resignation, Sen. Dupiton says he is ready to make the gesture as soon as the other senators return from the United States.

[Dupiton, in Creole] The Senate intends to do the same. Because we travel with the FNCD [National Front for change and Democracy] team, the presidential commission, the constitutionalist bloc and we know that all of them are not here, it is not a question of taking advantage—we are giving everyone time to return to the country—for us to convene all the senators. As soon as the senators gather, we will do exactly the same as in the Chamber of Deputies.

[Jean] Regarding keeping voluntarily the senators elected on 18 January, Sen. Thomas Eddy Dupiton made a point of specifying that his colleagues in the Alliance will enjoy full senatorial privileges until the conciliation commission reaches a decision. To show this, Thomas Eddy Dupiton was accompanied at his press conference by Gabriel Ancion, Amos Andre, and Dejean Belizaire. The latter believes that the conditions necessary for the conciliation commission to void the 18 January elections do not exist.

[Belizaire, in Creole] I do not believe that conditions exist for the conciliation commission to void the 18 January elections. We will not anticipate the decision that an independent institution can make. We deplore, however, the fact that there are those who are violating the truce. People who tell the conciliation commission simply to keep away—we have not kept away. We voluntarily backed off to help solve the situation.

[Jean] In any case, it is difficult for Eudrice Raymond, an FNCD senator, to speak of a truce regarding the 18 January elections. They were not elected; those senators were simply appointed, he explains. Sen. Eudrice Raymond supports the position of the three other FNCD legislators of the constitutionalist bloc who refused to sign the New York pact. He, however, noted a state of mind favorable to the resumption of the tasks in the upper chamber as well as in the lower chamber. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that by keeping temporarily the 18 January senators, FNCD, the constitutionalists, holds a

relative majority in the upper chamber, a total of nine senators of 17. [end recording]

CONACOM's Benoit Urges Cooperation With Prime Minister

FL2207183493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Gary Belizaire on a news conference by the National Congress of Democratic Movements, CONACOM, in Port-au-Prince on 21 July—recorded, in Creole]

[Excerpts] [Belizaire] Just like the other sectors that participated in the New York meeting, CONACOM explained on 21 July the two basic reasons that they signed the New York pact. According to Victor Benoit, who spoke during a news conference held on 21 July, the first reason is that the New York pact has created conditions under which, by setting aside the 18 January parliamentarians, the parliament can work without problems. In Professor Benoit's opinion, the concord prime minister will be ratified without difficulty. In this sense, the New York pact is a step forward in the people's democratic battle. The other reason is that the government will enjoy a six-month political truce. The New York pact is full of promise, stated Benoit.

[Benoit] The New York Pact includes a lot of positive promises. In fact, it provides for the political groups within the parliament to give the prime minister his chance. This means that they will not interpellate him, they will not dismiss him. The prime minister will have enough time to win the trust of all sectors, including Haitians and foreigners who want to invest their money in the country so the poor can get jobs. The pact will allow the forthcoming executive power to review any anticonstitutional measures taken by the de facto governments over the past 22 months. One of the measures deserving review is Bazin's 7 December 1992 order establishing the Exceptional Electoral Council [that held the 18 January elections].

[Belizaire] In a strong position because of these considerations, Benoit said that CONACOM supports the New York pact. He asked the FNCD parliamentarians and the other legal parliamentarians to work toward implementation of the pact. [passage omitted]

Before the New York meeting, CONACOM in a letter drew up the profile of the concord prime minister and proposed Victor Benoit as prime minister to Aristide. This information gave rise to much stir within the FNCD. Today, what is the stand of FNCD or, more precisely, of CONACOM on the selection of the prime minister?

[Benoit] In a meeting we had with President Aristide, it was clearly said that many factors can be considered in the choice of a prime minister. Consequently, we think President Aristide enjoys the freedom granted to him by the Constitution to choose the prime minister he considers most able to do the job at this time in these circumstances. No matter which prime minister President Aristide may designate, once he is ratified, our responsibility in CONACOM and FNCD is to cooperate with the prime minister so the democratic transition can occur. [passage omitted]

Session To Elect New Office Postponed for 22 July

FL2207185093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 22 July 93

[Excerpt] The election of an office at the lower chamber has been postponed. Following the thorny session on 21 July, the deputies finally agreed on postponing the election of the new office to Thursday [22 July] at 1500 GMT. The session was marked by a tight struggle between the two antagonistic blocs for control of the next office. Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin recording] [Jean] It was one of the rare times that the Chamber of Deputies of the 45th Legislature had been complete, or almost so, since its formation, with more than 70 deputies attending the session. This large presence was not, however, spontaneous or for free, because the stakes at this session were significant: regaining the office vacated by the signing of the New York pact. The debates were going to show the faithful image of the parliament's political landscape with, on one side, the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, the constitutionalists who used all kinds of arguments to avoid the election of the new office on 21 July. Being in a minority, they were convinced that they were going to lose those elections to the opposing camp, the Alliance and their socialist allies, who in themselves could make the necessary quorum. Faced with such a reality, FNCD and the constitutionalists prefered to play the card of negotiations. Requesting a meeting in camera, they finally obtained a postponement of the session. However, what are the real FNCD demands? Deputy Ysaac Garcon tells us:

[Garcon, in Creole] We feel that our colleagues in the Alliance tend to marginalize FNCD. They want FNCD to kneel down. We are a political force. Whatever they are doing, they must negotiate with us, cards on the table. What we want is as a political force; we want to be legitimately represented in the office.

[Jean, in Creole] I noticed that FNCD is a minority compared with the Alliance supported by PANPRA, Nationalistic, Progressive, Revolutionary Party of Haiti. Do you intend to consider this point in the negotiations?

[Garcon, in Creole] We are strong in the Senate. If in the FNCD we have five representatives in the Senate and we can have the majority, if they are negotiating, they must do so from here [lower chamber] so that they can get something in the Senate.

[Jean] The Alliance and their allies seem to be willing to make some concessions, according to Deputy Pierre

Simon Georges. He, however, warns the constitutionalist legislators against all maneuvers aimed at delaying the election of the new office. [passage omitted]

That is to say, intense talks will be held between the various political blocs to perhaps reach a consensus office, because the deputies clearly chose a two-way deal instead of new delaying tactics. [end recording]

Senate Presidency Non-negotiable

FL2207204793 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The National Front for Change and Democracy is not going to negotiate the presidency of the Senate of the Republic as the elections that brought Firmin Jean-Louis to this post were honest and legal. This is what Senator Jean-Robert Martinez said before the microphone of Gary Belizaire. Yes for the other posts, but the presidency belongs to Firmin Jean-Louis. This matter is closed.

[Begin Martinez recording] Actually, there were elections in the Senate. At that time, it was the constitutionalist bloc that held elections in the absence of the senators of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP]. It was under the quorum of 13 that those elections were held at a time when the other senators enjoying a two-year mandate, under the 16 December [1990] and 20 January [1991] elections, were still there. We think that those elections were legal elections and that Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis should keep his post.

However, I want to point out that we were aware of the fact that the ACP senators were not present during those elections. We take that into consideration—in order to move toward concord so we can get the country on the path to reconciliation—and the office of the constitutionalist bloc is willing to negotiate certain posts within that office with the ACP members. [end recording]

Antimilitary, Pro-Aristide Demonstrators Burn Tires

FL2207204693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] In Gonaives, tires were burning on 21 July in the Raboteau slum area. The military had fired shots in the air which spread panic in the city of the Independence. Our correspondent Jean-Claude Noel:

[Begin recording in Creole] Tires were burning on 21 July in Raboteau, Gonaives, during a soccer training game a group of young men from Raboteau were playing in the La Saline area, near the sea. Shortly afterwards, a group of military arrived and the soccer players dove in the sea. They chanted hostile words against the military.

At about 1530 GMT, the group [not further identified] approached the sea, chanting expressions of joy for the return of President Aristide on 30 October. After that, shots were fired in the air for the purpose of intimidation. The military then patrolled the slum areas. At around 1630 GMT, the people returned to the sea and burned tires. They took the opportunity to bait the military. [end recording]

Commerce Minister Laine Justifies Fuel Rationing

FL2207130993 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1100 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] The consequences of the enforcement of the international sanctions against the Haitian putschists are getting more and more dramatic. The difficulties in supplying fuel have become increasingly bitter. Drivers manage to get some gallons of fuel at the cost of several hours' wait. In the areas surrounding the gas stations, vehicles stand in line even over night. Commerce Minister Saidel Laine has justified the fuel rationing measures by the necessity of extending the time of [a possible] depletion of the stock of petroleum products in Haiti. The following is a report by Emmanuel Laurent.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Laurent] Commerce [and Industry] Minister Saidel Laine explained during a news conference all the measures he has taken in order to face the petroleum embargo that the UN Security Council placed on the country on 23 June. Minister Laine said that these steps are designed to prevent depletion of the supply. Although he has received much criticism, the minister said he would continue to manage the embargo as a good family father would. Minister Laine criticized the embargo that the international community has imposed on the country. In his opinion, it is hypocrisy and spitefulness because, if they wanted to, they would have resolved the crisis after the 30 September [1991] coup d'etat. Let us listen to Minister Laine.

[Laine] I believe that to adopt such a drastic economic sanction is, on the one hand, hypocrisy and on the other hand, spitefulness. [It is] hypocrisy in the sense that if the international community wanted to resolve the crisis begun on 30 September [1991] they would not wait [until] today to impose a petroleum embargo [words indistinct]. They should have performed a shock treatment if they wanted to solve the problem. This means that [words indistinct] spitefulness is that a country like Haiti has been held under embargo for nearly 20 months. Its economy has been destroyed. Now, you have imposed a petroleum embargo on it. It is as though, after you have razed a house, you run a bulldozer over it to make sure it is crushed.

[Laurent] Minister Laine recommends that the prime minister who is going to lead the government come with a fuel tanker in his pocket if he would not like to be in a fine mess. Minister Laine explained that if that prime minister takes office on [a] Monday, the tanker should be distributing fuel at the harbor on Tuesday.

[Laine] However, I would advise the prime minister who is accepting this job today to negotiate with the international community so he can have the guarantee of a tanker of petroleum products right after he takes office; that is, in the event that the prime minister takes office this morning, the tanker should have already been there in the harbor or—if not in the harbor—(?on the borderline) of the national waters so it can enter [the country] and then pump fuel into Haiti.

[Laurent] Rationing continues because the six-week supply of fuel (?has been managed in such a way as to) last 12 weeks. There is fuel for seven ((more)) weeks, according to Minister Laine. In the meantime, it is very difficult to get gasoline, oil, and kerosene at gas stations. ((end recording))

Government, Opposition Approve Independent Police Force

FL2207203293 Bridgetown CANA in English 2046 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, July 21, CANA—The Jamaican Government and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) has agreed to measures, aimed at providing the police with independence from "operational control" by politicians.

The new initiatives will include legislative action to "emphasise the sole responsibility of the (police) commissioner in the operational control and direction of the force" and a constitutional amendment to provide for the appointment of the Police Services Commission by the governor-general and not the political directorate.

The JLP which has boycotted parliament since March 30 general elections to force government's hand on the issue, described the latest developments as "critical steps in reforming the police force," but said it will not be satisfied until there is "agreement on a timetable for practical implementation."

The JLP called for "immediate steps to be put in place, an independent police services commission in keeping with the spirit of the agreement," while awaiting the constitutional amendment which will require a minimum of six months before passage through parliament.

The party said there was "nothing in the present constitution to prevent us acting in this way...."

In a statement released on Wednesday [21 July], Prime Minister Percival Patterson said cabinet had approved "a number of changes" recommended by a national task force on crime earlier this year, and agreed on by the government, the opposition and "other groups." The agreement came amidst growing public concern at the level of crime and police brutality here, and demands for urgent remedial action.

Patterson said the implementation "of these proposals will not only secure a clear perception as to the impartiality of the police services commission and the force, but will significantly enhance the discipline and effectiveness of the police force." The agreement calls for legislative action emphasizing the sole responsibility of the commissioner in the operational control and direction of the force.

The national security minister will retain responsibility for policy and will be charged with policy implementation; in a case where the minister's policy direction is not carried out, the minister may refer the matter to the Police Services Commission for appropriate action and may request the removal of the commissioner.

If the Police Services Commission rejects the minister's recommendation, the minister may refer the matter to parliament for a decision by a two-thirds majority of both houses. The commissioner of police will have the power to transfer or dismiss any member of the force including members of the gazetted ranks (a power he does not now have), subject to the right of appeal to the Police Services Commission and review by the governor general in privy council.

Government will recommend to parliament that the Constitution be amended to provide for the appointment of a total of seven members of the Police Services Commission by the governor general. These members, who should not include a serving member of the police force, would be appointed after discussions with professional and voluntary organisations and consultations with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition.

A standing select committee of parliament is to be constituted within the provisions of the standing orders, and it will have the power to monitor and examine the activities of the police force, and to which both the commissioner and the Police Services Commission would be accountable.

St. Lucia

Officials Meet With French on Drugs, Arms Cooperation

FL2207231693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1733 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, July 22, CANA—Senior French and St. Lucian Government officials began talks here Thursday aimed at curbing the illegal drugs and arms trade between their countries. St. Lucia's Deputy Prime Minister George Mallet said the opportunities exist for closer co-operation between the French dependent countries of Martinique and Guadeloupe and Castries, "if we can create a workable climate for the effective interchange of ideas and strategies."

"It is only fitting therefore that we should each take appropriate steps to ensure that each other's territory is not used to facilitate or encourage acts prejudicial to the safety of our individual country and its people," Mallet said, noting the close historical ties between the countries concerned. "This is what I hope that this first

meeting will help develop," he said adding, "we are confident that there is the required level of commitment to ensure sensible and practical suggestions and recommendations...." Mallet suggested that there was need for other meetings of this nature, indicating they were necessary, "in our attempts to deal with the sensitive and dangerous issues that impact the life, security, and future of our two countries and people."

The meeting is being attended by high-ranking officials from the Customs and Excise Departments, the police, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Air and Sea Ports Authority of both countries. The French delegation is headed by the director of the cabinet of the Prefect of Martinique, Jean Pierre Alloncle, while Johannes Leonce, the permament secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is heading the St. Lucia delegation.

Although no figures have been given regarding the extent of trafficking in arms and drugs between the French islands and St. Lucia, the French authorities said the proximity of the islands was causing problems.

"Indeed... The movements of populations are creating specific problems as far as it concerns immigration, the fight against the traffic of drugs, or the prevention and the repression of crime," French ambassador Madam Sylvie Alvarez said. She said that despite efforts to improve co-operation between the French islands and St. Lucia, "the problem of the fight against deliquency has not entirely been considered." She blamed this failure on the administrative and judicial structures which were different, as well as "our linquistic differences," which did not facilitate communication. "For all these reasons it was important to meet," she added. The ambassador said she was hoping that the meeting here would result in the "establishment of a basis for a fruitful co-operation, especially relating to the exchange of information."

Costa Rica

Public Workers Continue Strike Into Second Day

PA2207231193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Today the strike by public employees entered its second day. Despite union leaders having said that some government offices have joined the strike, the government says this is not so. While this is taking place, a rally is being held by workers' representatives of the various government institutions here in the center of San Jose. Our reporter Gabriela Naranjo has this report:

[Begin recording] [Naranjo] A total of 3,500 people have joined the strike called by the Permanent Workers Council and the National Association of Public Workers. At this very moment some teachers are approaching one side of the Central Bank building, specifically those teachers who belong to the Costa Rican Teachers Union. Regarding the union activity currently taking place, Unatropic leader Guillermo Badilla explains:

[Badilla] Many thanks, Gabriela. I want to thank all public workers for their overwhelming support today. In the case of the Public Works Ministry [MOP], the strike has been complete. Four groups that were not part of the strike on 19 July today joined in. We can guarantee that over 4,500 MOP workers have joined the protest today. Today we have marched from the MOP, passed the Justice Ministry columns, passed the Cortez columns, and here we are at an important rally rejecting and repudiating the current administration's policy on salaries.

[Naranjo] Another important point worth mentioning is that you said earlier that the International Federation of Lumber and Construction Workers, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is backing the Costa Rican labor movement. What can you tell us on this point?

[Badilla] We have lodged international complaints with foreign labor organizations. In Unatropic's specific case, we reported on salary policies; we reported the repression to our affiliate, the International Federation of Lumber and Construction Workers. They have demonstrated their solidarity by protesting to government authorities. We are examining the possibility of lodging a complaint within the next few days direct with the ILO [International Labor Office].

[Naranjo] Another important point worth mentioning for listeners is that this rally will continue until approximately 1400. Afterward, each organization returns to its jobsite. At 1600 sharp, all union leaders will meet at Sitrosimica to completely evaluate the two days of the strike. One of the important goals of this strike is the elimination of the 5-percent ceiling, because public workers believe that such a wage increase is a mockery. [end recording]

Guatemala

De Leon Comments on Student Violence, Eliminates Discretionary Funding

PA2207160093 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] President De Leon Carpio held a news conference at the government building on 21 July shortly after receiving a representative of the U.S. Government, Director Brian Atwood of the Agency for International Development. President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said flatly that he has eliminated all discretionary expenses in the government and warned that his administration is determined to enforce the law in the country. Consequently, he will not tolerate the daily violence against urban buses.

While the president was meeting with Atwood, who told De Leon Carpio of President Bill Clinton's personal interest in expediting the delivery of over $130 million in aid for Guatemala, new violent actions were perpetrated just a few blocks away. Students from the Instituto Rafael Aqueche threw desks down from the school's upper floors, blocking traffic on 9th Street.

Students also erected roadblocks in some neighborhoods in the capital's northeastern section. The incidents occurred after buses were set on fire and 12 persons were arrested between 16 and 20 July. Most of them were students from the Instituto Rafael Aqueche and the School of Commerce. Eight of the arrested persons are adults and the other four are between 12 and 17 years old.

Before referring to the government's stand on youth violence in the capital, De Leon Carpio announced the elimination of all the government's discretionary expenses. De Leon made the proposal on the same day he was sworn in as president, and today he indicated where the funds would be transferred.

[Begin De Leon recording] Yesterday I signed the decree eliminating all discretionary expenses. Not just some of them; not two, three, or five million; but all confidential expenses have been eliminated because they were the biggest source of corruption. It is true that according to some politicians, those types of expenses are necessary for the government. That would have been possible if they had been used honestly and in an orderly way. However, because that was not the case, I pledged to eliminate them and I did. The government decree has transferred 4.1 million quetzales to the Social Investment Fund, 7 million quetzales to the National Reconstruction Committee for human settlement, health, and rural development projects, 1.5 million quetzales to the municipal development program, 12 million quetzales to the Education Ministry, and 6.6 million quetzales to the Regional Development Fund for community rural development projects. I hereby reiterate that the President's Office is not withholding a single centavo of the discretionary fund allocations. We hope that such expenses

will not appear in the next budget and that this measure will be approved by Congress. [end recording]

De Leon Carpio discussed crime in the country and emphasized the need to take measures to curb the causes of this situation.

[Begin De Leon Carpio recording] I honestly believe that the increase in violence and insecurity is due to the problems the Guatemalan Government and people are facing. Violence both here and abroad is generally caused by social or economic problems. The government is determined to attack not the effects but the causes. I must rule out, at least for the time being, that such a situation is caused by destabilizing groups. [end recording]

Further Comments on Violence

PA2207153493 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio commented on violence in the country and referred to the need for measures to counteract the causes of that situation.

[Begin De Leon recording] I think violence has various causes. The people and the government are facing the problem of insecurity among the citizens. Here, like everywhere else in the world, violence has economic and social causes. This government wants to tackle not only the effects but also the causes of violence. At this point I completely reject the possibility of destabilization groups in the country. [end recording]

On student violence and youth gangs that infiltrate the student community, President De Leon said he is not going to tolerate vandalism in the streets of the capital. He said he will enforce respect for the law. The president said that students caught engaging in acts of violence will be suspended from school, and the full weight of the law will fall on common citizens participating in such actions.

[Begin De Leon recording] The Transportation Ministry has been working to resolve the transportation problem, but there are still incidents such as those that took place yesterday. I want to tell the Guatemalan people that such incidents will not be allowed. The fact that both the president and the vice president were forged in the democratic system and that we have a democratic frame of mind does not mean that we do not have to abide by the law. That means we must implement the law, and we will do it because that is our obligation.

We cannot confuse liberty with licentiousness or democracy with anarchy. If the culprits are students, we may suspend them from school, depending on the reports from school directors and authorities who will take into consideration their behavior and their school performance. If the culprits are common citizens, as the initial investigations indicate, the Government Ministry will initiate proceedings to establish what their responsibilities are.

All demands must be presented without disrupting public order. I repeat: We are a democratic president, vice president, and cabinet. We respect human rights but we demand that the citizens fulfill their obligations and respect the law. [end recording]

Riot Police on Alert

PA2307003993 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Jul 93 p 5

[Text] Several National Police officers have announced that riot police have been on a state of alert since 21 July, but have not seen any action.

Following the latest protest actions carried out by students, who have burned three mass transit buses so far in July, riot police have been confined to their quarters in strategic parts of this city.

It is a situation of extreme emergency for the National Police because in the city of Zacapa, capital of Zacapa Department, another riot police force is present.

Quiche is facing the same situation because in two municipalities of that department, San Andres Sajcabaja and Uspantan, people are uneasy over the appointment of the new mayors.

A third riot police force is present in Izabal, where a banana farm strike has led to the deployment of the police. A police force was sent to Chichicastenango and Quiche to assist the authorities investigating the Jorge Carpio Nicolle case.

Nicaragua

Government Officially Condemns Esteli Attack

PA2207134493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has confirmed that the Nicaraguan Government on 21 July condemned the armed attack by approximately 150 former Sandinist soldiers against Esteli. The foreign minister said the attack is contemptuous because a serious amnesty proposal has been presented as a last recourse to disarm and demobilize the armed groups. The foreign minister also stated at the news conference that the rebels who took part in these violent actions will be excluded from the partial amnesty President Violeta Chamorro wishes to grant to achieve total disarmament of the groups operating in northern Nicaragua.

Chamorro Comments

PA2207213893 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1853 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Alejandro Cruz from Masaya]

[Text] On 22 July, President Violeta Chamorro opened a crafts fair to honor Santa Ana, patron saint of the Indiri people, a scant 3 km from the entrance to the city of flowers.

Chamorro was received by a group of students who, although on vacation, had been invited by the mayor to wear their uniforms to welcome her. Later, Chamorro went to the Santa Ana Cathedral, where she said she hoped the rearmed men, led by Pedrito El Hondureno, who are attacking Esteli, would lay down their weapons.

Referring to the talks she held with UNO [National Opposition Unity] leaders on 21 July, Chamorro told the media that it was the UNO people who left the room after she stated she would not accept the Blue Helmets that the UNO Political Council is trying to impose.

[Begin Chamorro recording, in progress]...asking all those who are still refusing to lay down their weapons to ensure there is peace in our fatherland without threats, war, and bloodshed as was the case in Esteli on the evening of 21 July. I hope and have great faith that Pedrito El Hondureno, who was quite annoyed, has laid down his weapons or surrendered by now, because it is not fair that in Nicaragua [three-second break in reception] whom I call hotheads and will not lay down their weapons.

We are no longer at war, but in peace. We need to forgive each other and achieve reconciliation to ensure our Nicaragua.... [pauses] in the past three years we have fought against the ideas of 50 years of dictatorships and 10 years of Sandinist ideology. I have called for reconciliation and a new start.

There are many Sandinists with whom we can shake hands. I say let us forgive each other because we need unity to reconstruct Nicaragua. Reconciliation is possible by pardoning each other. This is the only way to move our country forward and save it from bankruptcy and unemployment. Dear friends, I do not want you—those who are here and those watching me because I noticed there are many television stations here—to feel disappointed and think there is unemployment only in Nicaragua and blame us for it. No, I inherited unemployment. There is unemployment in many countries, even in the largest ones, such as the biggest power, the United States. There are many unemployed there, too.

It does not please me to say that because I would like everyone to find a job. You should not, however, think the government will do it all. At this time I cannot do it all. I will, however, inaugurate projects such as in Masaya and the fair here in Nindiri. I think we will all overcome the crisis.

I tried to continue talks with UNO, but they refused. They are now saying they do not want to continue talks because they want the United Nations to come here and I do not want that. We are Nicaraguans and should solve our own problems. [end recording]

Gen. Ortega Speaks

PA2207192593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1535 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Opening statement by General Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, during a news conference with foreign and domestic reporters; place not given; broadcast in progress—live]

[Text] ...the irregular forces led by Pedro El Hondureno [the alias of former Sandinist People's Army Major Victor Manuel Gallegos Hernandez] are under pressure as a result of a Sandinist People's Army [EPS] forces' operation, ordered by the EPS high command the very moment we learned about this irresponsible incursion, against this adventure headed by Pedro El Hondureno. Yesterday afternoon we began to carry out an operation that, right now, is producing positive results as we work to displace those people from the few points they still control in Esteli.

By 0800 [1300 GMT] this morning, as a result of the actions of our troops, the forces of Pedro El Hondureno had been removed from the positions they occupied on the approaches to Esteli from Managua. They were also removed from (Mejas) and from the police station area. Last night they were pushed into areas of the city's downtown, especially in the area of the banks, the Esteli Cathedral, and El Chico Motel.

Yesterday afternoon, those forces were pushed out of important positions. As this news conference progresses, some of those forces are still resisting our drive. We are pushing in various directions from both the north and south. This is possible thanks to the superiority in forces and means of the Army. At this moment there are intense battles. Dozens of them are practically trapped. They are subjected to our push, to our general advance.

The forces that yesterday firmly held the banking area have now practically abandoned the area looking for withdraw routes to escape to the city's outskirts. We have been informed that there is fighting in the cemetery area and the Army is carrying out large-scale maneuvers to surround the forces there.

The heaviest clashes that can be heard in the city of Esteli are taking place near the cathedral and the El Chico Motel. The Lepantos area has been cleared for the time being. Army maneuvers will continue in adherence with the guidelines established when this situation began in order to reduce as much as possible the damage that the operation may inflict, particularly on the population. That is what slowed down our maneuvers and the advance of our troops.

In this regard we are not under stress for time. We believe we must work as much as possible with a great sense of responsibility regarding the civilian population, state property, as well as citizens's property. The resources the military operation has needed up to now have been guided by this principle.

Here we are not facing the massive and criminal bombings of the Somozist [National] Guard to quell the insurrectional struggle against the Somozist dictatorship—a situation that is similar to what we face now. We are not dropping 500-lb. bombs like Somoza dropped over entire neighborhoods, which inflicted hundreds of civilian casualties. We are not making indiscriminate use of armored vehicles and artillery; we are basically using whatever is needed to liberate the objective and totally dislodge these individuals who ventured into Esteli. The goal of dislodging them in less than 24 hours, which ends at 1400 [1900 GMT]—24 hours since Pedro El Hondureno entered Esteli—is moving on with positive results. Our objective is to dislodge these people and reestablish order and normalcy to the city of Esteli.

Casualties up to this moment are as follows: These so-called Workers Peasant Revolutionary Front [Frente Revolucionario Obrero Campesino] suffered a total of 21 dead. Fifteen persons were killed in Esteli; four in small clashes in Ocotal with diversionary forces the rebels used while they attacked central Esteli; and two in Condega, for a total of 21 dead.

According to reports we will confirm as soon as these people are dislodged from Esteli and the situation is restored to normal, there are an estimated 28 wounded. Of these, 15 are virtually prisoners in the Esteli hospital, which our men have surrounded. Although there are no rebels to be seen in the hospital area, some armed men are in the hospital, supposedly to protect their own wounded. We have surrounded the hospital and will keep control of the situation. In addition, four rebels have been captured, for a total of 110, excuse me, 53 casualties. Our forces suffered one policeman killed. Regarding this policeman, we must bear in mind that we are in the presence of a military situation where the police are participating in military operations. Consequently, all police casualties must be included in the casualty count. In addition, the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] sustained 11 wounded, two civilians, including a child, dead, and an estimated 40 or 50 civilians wounded. In all, the irresponsible action of this group of recompas has caused more than 100 casualties. This figure includes dead and wounded, both of the recompas and the Army and police, as well as civilians, even a child. This is the report of the casualties.

Our operations will continue at the same tactical and operational level until we dislodge them completely from the points where they are still resisting. Our operation will not conclude until we have reached our objective. We are granting time because we are making efforts to prevent, as much as possible, harm to the civilian population. This is the only reason we are delaying an effort to totally eliminate resistance focal points.

If this were an open-field confrontation, we would have been able to use various types of weapons to reach this objective. There are weapons we cannot use in cities because they would produce much harm to the civilian population and cause much destruction and this is not our objective. Our objective is to displace these people from their positions and reestablish peace and order in Esteli.

We want to appeal to all the members of this recompa organization, especially to those who are still, at some points, resisting the Army's drive, to immediately give up their position, surrender their weapons to our units, and submit themselves to our country's authorities. They are not achieving anything by uselessly resisting. They are just risking dying in vain while creating fear, unrest, and terror among a civilian population, among children and elderly people who don't want to relive the days of war, destruction, and anguish. Our people, who have endured this situation throughout this century, do not want it again.

So we appeal to these forces to give up their stance of confrontation with the Army. This is the best action they can adopt for the sake of patriotism and the strengthening of the peace we all want.

I want to say that we are making the commanders of these organizations, not the majority of the members, responsible. According to intelligence reports, most of the persons who compose those organizations have been deceived and were taken there practically by force. We are of the opinion that if the members of this group give up their position immediately, they can take advantage of the total pacification process, of the amnesty. In this way they would obtain a pardon and the legal securities that the government has announced for the sake of peace and that we have been promoting.

This amnesty cannot cover the commanders who irresponsibly have sent in their peasants, who were tricked because of their desperation resulting from their economic and social situation. We do not hold them [the peasants] responsible.

The commanders, the manipulators of the feelings of people who suffer because of the country's difficult economic situation, have only one alternative: to surrender their weapons and to submit themselves to the country's courts. They can be certain that if they surrender their weapons immediately, mechanisms will be established to guarantee that their lives will be respected. We are telling all the members of this group that they can still strengthen peace in Nicaragua.

We tell these leaders, these manipulators of the people's feelings, people who are going through a difficult economic period in this country, that the only step left for them is to put down their weapons and turn themselves over to the nation's justice. They can be certain that if they take this immediate step, delivering their weapons, mechanisms will be established to guarantee their lives.

I repeat, therefore, we are issuing a call to all members of this group. We are telling them that they can still help strengthen peace in Nicaragua by seeking the protection of an amnesty. We ask the leaders not to continue hurting the population, not to continue the path that

results in more bloodshed. We urge them to abide by the law. This is the only reasonable way out for these people.

I also want to point out that we urgently need to implement the total pacification program because Nicaragua has to unite so that we can confront the many problems beleaguering the country. The total pacification program continues firm and valid.

We call on the recompas and recontras organizations not to continue the perilous example of Pedrito El Hondureno, because it will not further the attainment of their objectives, which, according to several of those organizations, are allegedly based on the defense of economic, social, and political issues. Quite the contrary, if they follow this example, they will end up like those forces: with many casualties—dead and injured—and, what is more serious, they will bring more suffering and uncertainty to the innocent Nicaraguan population.

In this sense, we reiterate that recompas and recontras should go to the security zones. Approximately 500 rearmed combatants are already in the process of entering those areas. They will accept the program, turn in their weapons, and total pacification will be reached through the amnesty process.

We call on those groups to stop their actions completely. Those actions negatively affect producers, merchants, and regular citizens. Those actions have destroyed the few transportation buses that exist in the country and they have worsened the already serious economic and social crisis in the country.

This is a crisis that started during the more than 40 years of Somozist dictatorship and continued with the 10 years of blockade and war, imposed from abroad. This crisis has made Nicaragua suffer severe underdevelopment, backwardness, and deterioration. We have to resolve this crisis with work and sweat, but in a framework of true order and security and in a state of rights.

Consequently, we are hereby appealing to these forces of rearmed men to join the pacification forces and surrender their arms. As soon as the deadline for amnesty ends on 31 August, we will implement various plans to enforce the law more strictly in the country against the small recalcitrant groups that still challenge the peace and order that most Nicaraguans desire. I hereby appeal seriously to all Nicaraguans to consider the dramatic circumstances that the people, particularly the children, are experiencing in Esteli. This effort for total peace is vital for Nicaragua's basic stability, without which it is impossible to resolve all the serious economic problems with which everyone is familiar. This peace cannot be achieved by force of arms alone. The EPS will enforce the law on all those who violate order and threaten the people's security, such as the reckless groups of recompas in Esteli. In the future, we will not tolerate any actions by any one group of any political or ideological leaning.

Nevertheless, we believe peace is not achieved just by having the Army and police enforce the law with all strictness by the legitimate use of force, which the Army and the police have. To consolidate peace, it is necessary that the Army's determination to ensure people's order and tranquility be accompanied by the responsible stand of all of the other sectors in the country. Consequently, we will not tolerate deputies, such as Humberto Castilla, or government officials, such as Virgilio Godoy, encouraging or stimulating armed confrontation. We are suggesting to the president to take serious measures, just as we take the necessary measures in the framework of the Constitution and bylaws, just as we enforce the law endangering the lives of our soldiers and officers, in compliance of a sacred duty to the homeland, to preserve peace in Nicaragua, where policemen and soldiers have died and been wounded, where in the past few months Army officers have been murdered. Just as we make a deep commitment to achieve peace, all legal mechanisms and authorities should be applied on those who, taking refuge behind governmental positions, have encouraged, with a vengeful spirit, situations such as the one we are experiencing.

It is impossible to enforce the law while dozens of people are dying and being wounded, both recontras and recompas, while the law is not enforced or when no measure is applied on a vice president who recklessly encourages those who cause unrest in the country, whom we are then forced to fight.

Firm measures must also be taken against those who offer various kinds of assistance, such as entering and leaving the country to seek support in the United States, in Miami, for the rearmed activity aimed against Nicaraguans. It cannot be permitted in the future. We will have to demand more seriousness and responsibility from the U.S. Government to control those who promote these acts from the United States in an illegal and adventurous way.

We have also proven our firm stand in the face of the adventurous actions by foreign groups, leftist guerrillas who came here to sow armed solutions to problems in Managua and others places in the country. We have tried to solve the problem. We tried to place ourselves in their position. But those same gentlemen who are promoting armed groups from Miami discredit our effort and spread propaganda in the United States against this institution, which is shedding its blood and sweat to establish order in the country, an order that Nicaragua needs immediately.

We are attacked and slandered by those who are provoking terrorist actions against Nicaragua. This cannot continue. This also has been a cause of the rearmed problem that is resulting in so much mourning in Esteli, among the peasant population every day, and among the people in northern Nicaragua. In addition to the tragic situation in which they live, these people witness the shrinking of their economic opportunities as they become the victims of cattle rustling, as the money they use to produce is stolen, and as the trucks they use to transport their harvest are burned.

In sum, this situation of the rearmed groups has other causes also. These causes include those who become an obstacle in the implementation of the government plan for economic adjustment. This is a plan that has been difficult to implement. It becomes even more difficult to reactivate the economy if rearmed groups are promoted by the country's political sectors.

Another cause is the cut in the aid that the government is to receive. This cut makes the economic situation more difficult. There is greater unemployment and poverty. Demagogues take advantage of this unemployment and poverty to gain politically and promote groups such as the recontras and recompas, made up of people who are desperate with their economic situation.

Those who are from abroad and assemble with the goal to make this Army disappear, and those who condition the support to Nicaragua on doing away with this Army are also responsible for this situation. Those who, from radical right positions, are continuously call through the media for systematic and irresponsible attacks on the military and the police authorities, are also responsible for this situation. They propose doing away with the EPS simply to replace it with an army that can drop 500-lb. bombs on situations such as Esteli, to later say that the Army that is truly being formed is the one they want. These persons are also responsible for the tragic situation that the innocent community of Esteli is experiencing. Those who, from their demagogic positions, have encouraged those groups, making them appear as revolutionary defenders, as true Robin Hoods of the poor, are also responsible for the situation. Those who make us, our institution, appear to be at the service of the exploiters, the oppressors, are also responsible. Yesterday, we felt this situation in some media. This does not contribute to gaining a true image of this phenomena, rather it fosters the spilling of blood.

Those who want the retired EPS members to appear as ousted or as discharged from this armed institution, also contribute to this situation. The majority of the retired EPS members will never be deceived by positions such as those [words indistinct] and other contra groups. It is true that the retired EPS members are experiencing difficult social and economic situations, as the great majority of the Nicaraguan community is experiencing. The majority of the people in our country are also [word indistinct] in chaos. In Nicaragua, life has never been easy. No system has been able to resolve the social and economic problems. Although it is true that the retired EPS members are experiencing difficult times, it is also true that they are witnesses to how this Army did everything humanly possible to contribute somehow to the necessary and unavoidable retirement of those comrades from the Army's ranks.

Unfortunately, it has been a minority who have taken the wrong path. I could say that there is probably no other country in Latin America that has so much freedom of expression and mechanisms to protest legally as in Nicaragua. There is no Army, police, or state security apparatus here that goes around following union leaders, intellectuals, workers, or anyone in order to block whichever type of organization they may prefer in carrying out their struggle or criticism against the government. There is no Somoza-type army that prevents freedom of expression through bloodshed. It is completely false that the recompa groups, despite their supposedly revolutionary ideals, are going to claim more revolutionary fervor than ours. It is also false that an irregular armed group made up by former members of this Army would be more lucid or more aware of Nicaragua's problems than we are.

We are making history through our institutional, and constitutional conduct. We are ensuring liberty and security for all, not only for the Sandinist party members. We are being more revolutionary than the recompas will ever be. We are being true revolutionaries. It is false that those irregular, adventurous groups will be able to guarantee the accomplishments obtained through people's struggle more than the professional institutions that no longer obey the dictates of one specific political party as they did in the past. These professional institutions will abide by the constitutional and legal framework, just like we must all do in the future.

We would like to make a firm call to all those who opposed the amnesty proposal. I am almost certain that if the amnesty had been implemented when it was first announced, probably many of those who are currently fighting or have died, would not have been killed or would not be causing so much harm to others and themselves. We said it clearly before, that the amnesty was akin to preventing numerous clashes. Unfortunately, the amnesty proposal was misunderstood because we still have here, from all sectors including the religious, a large dose of political passion that blinds reason and prevents us from uniting. There was opposition to the amnesty for different reasons. Now we have the consequences.

There was opposition to the pacification plan, yet there was never an alternative proposal. I want to point out that today, more than ever, it is vital that this confrontation for complete pacification not be perceived by some economic sectors or even municipal and government officials as a boxing match where only the EPS and the rearmed groups are in the ring. No. In order to accomplish the country's complete pacification, there is need for the nation's commitment as a whole. There is need for an all-out judicial offensive by strengthening the law, and by not rapidly releasing all those who break the law. There is need for strategic plans which the government at this time has decided to intensify within the framework of total pacification and amnesty. We are referring to economic and social programs which will help to confront this phenomenon. But what we really need is the assistance of all Nicaraguans. It is unrealistic for the large entrepreneurs or large capitalists who have the means and are needed here to encourage more employment and investments not to commit themselves more fully to the pacification process.

Furthermore, these economic sectors will also have to urge seriously their politicians who are undermining peace.

Therefore, I want to conclude by saying that while the politicians, the economic sectors, and the different sectors of the country try to reach a greater agreement to improve Nicaragua, all Nicaraguans—the business, political, unions, communities, clergymen, government sectors, and all the forces of the country—are responsible to millions of Nicaraguans—children, elderly, and those suffering from the economic and social crisis—and we should at least agree on clear rules and basic points to attain order and safety.

Maybe we cannot reach agreements regarding all the political, economic, constitutional, and other aspects, like that of the reforms, but we have the patriotic and moral duty of reaching an agreement on those points that may totally banish events like this one that has taken place in Esteli. Violent and armed actions must be left behind. In this regard, we should reach a great concerted agreement.

While we reach that agreement, we confirm our commitment to apply, now more than ever and from now on, all the laws and all our resources to attain that peace, tranquility, and order without which Nicaragua would simply sink.

We have received one last report from the [word indistinct].

Thirteen members of this group have surrendered at the mayoralty. Rather, they have proposed their surrender. They are proposing mechanisms for their surrender through the Red Cross.

I would like to say that we support this attitude from these men and, at this moment, we publicly guarantee respect of their lives. As I said before, if they are rank and file, they will benefit from the amnesty.

Ortega Suspends Trip

PA2207140893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1249 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Managua, 22 Jul (NOTIMEX) - Intense fighting resumed in the predawn hours between the Army and groups of irregulars who took over positions in Esteli on 21 July.

General Humberto Ortega, commander in chief of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], suspended his planned trip to Esteli, 150 km from Managua, following the resumption of military clashes.

Army spokesmen said Gen. Ortega will hold a news conference in Managua to provide an update on the situation in northern Nicaragua.

A preliminary report states that at least 15 people have been killed and between 40 and 50 wounded in the fighting that has taken place since the afternoon of 21 July between a column of about 100 irregulars of the so called Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front and the Army.

The former Sandinist soldiers have made a series of socioeconomic demands for the creation of jobs, workers' participation in privatization, and the legalization of homes and plots of land distributed by the previous Sandinist regime, among other points.

Nicaraguan newspapers carry front page reports citing unconfirmed sources that over 20 people are dead.

The surprise attack led by former Army Major Victor Manuel Gallegos "is a treacherous attack on the peace process," the Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA published in its 22 July editorial.

EL NUEVO DIARIO showed a picture of armored helicopters flying over the Esteli.

The rearmed group entered Esteli in 20 vehicles. The Army attempted to dislodge them from their occupied positions with armored helicopters.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front strongly condemned the military action by the rearmed group, calling their demands "political rhetoric."

Red Cross Says Two Dead, 45 Wounded

PA2207134793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The Red Cross has reported that two civilians died and 45 were wounded during the fighting with Sandinist People's Army in Esteli.

Local radio stations have reported that one policeman and two recontras died early in the clashes in central Esteli. Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Wheelock said the attackers will be excluded from the amnesty because they are outlaws and must be dealt with in that capacity. He reported that Commander Luis Enrique Rodriguez, Esteli chief of police, is being held captive by the rebels.

Rebels Demand Amnesty, Safe-Conduct

PA2207160193 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1505 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Managua, 22 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The 150 former Sandinist military men who took over Esteli today demanded that the government grant them amnesty and give them a safe-conduct to leave the town, in whose center they took up positions following a heavy clash with the Army. The Army and the police, who have received reinforcements from Managua, are trying to dislodge the rearmed men from Esteli where, according to various sources, at least 21 people have died and 45 others were wounded.

According to Managua radio stations, fighting is still ongoing at several points in Esteli, although the clashes are not as bitter as those in the past few hours, when the

Army reported 15 dead, several of them civilians, according to the Red Cross.

Radio Report Fighting Increases

PA2207161793 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1535 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Silvio Rodriguez from Esteli—live]

[Text] The clashes in Esteli are continuing. Constant shooting is heard throughout the area. There is fighting in the El Rosario and El Calvario neighborhoods, in the area near the Alejandro Davila Bolanos Hospital where there are approximately 32 recompas. Recompa leaders said that any FROC [Peasant-Worker Revolutionary Front] member who attempts to desert will be shot in the head; they are not allowing any of their men to leave. Fighting is ongoing near the Alejandro Davila Bolanos Hospital.

According to reports obtained at that hospital, one of the leaders there claims that he shot two Army sharpshooters who were on top of a building. At another intersection, parallel to the hospital, a FROC member was trying to find another sharpshooter who was in that area. Fighting continues at the main plaza and other [words indistinct], as well as near the Texaco gas station near the Inter-American Highway in the direction of Condega.

Fighting continues in several places in Esteli. People are staying in their homes. Most people keep their doors closed, but others, the curious ones, open their doors and go out to the streets. This is very dangerous. This is why there are so many wounded civilians. Approximately 100 civilians have received bullet wounds in Esteli, where fighting has increased.

Rebels in Hospital Begin Surrender

PA2207192493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Radio Sandino Director Conrado Pineda]

[Text] I hereby announce that a few minutes ago 35 rearmed men who had taken over the Esteli hospital and held more than 150 persons hostage decided to surrender. The 150 hostages included men, women, children, and hospital personnel.

The 35 rearmed men said they were not going to surrender and that they would continue the takeover to the last man.

Sandinist People's Army troops and the national police forces completely surrounded the hospital grounds.

At this very moment we have been notified that the 35 rearmed men are beginning to surrender to the police and Army troops. That only leaves a small group of rearmed men fighting the Army.

I repeat, the 35 rearmed men who had taken over the Esteli hospital and held more than 100 civilians hostage have begun to surrender.

Kidnapped Ambassador Released

PA2207200893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1925 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Managua, 22 Jul (AFP)—Noel Rivas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, who had been captured on 21 July by Nicaraguan rebel groups, was released today and "is in good health," the Foreign Ministry has reported.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman indicated that Rivas and his wife, Olga Teran, were released this afternoon. The circumstances of their release were not disclosed.

Rebel Chief Rules Out Surrender

PA2207204293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1927 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Managua, 22 Jul (AFP)—The chief of the former Sandinist soldiers who are rearmed (recompas) and who have been attacking the city of Esteli since the afternoon of 21 July announced on 22 July that he will remain entrenched "until he is taken dead or alive." He stated this position despite the fact that 32 of his fellow fighters have already surrendered to the Red Cross.

Wearing black clothes, a red and black (the colors of the Sandinist banner) bracelet, and a small hat, Victor Gallegos, alias Pedrito El Hondureno, told a group of journalists: "This that we are doing now is nothing compared to what we can do if the Army continues pressuring us." As seven of his men approvingly looked on, the former Sandinist People's Army [EPS] major noted in a quiet tone: "We can seize the cities of Chontales and Managua. We have the capability of doing it." Outside, an intense rattling of machine guns could be heard.

Gallegos received the journalists at a point in the outskirts of the city. He was holding firmly an Israeli-made Uzi as he told journalists: "We have never considered the amnesty" being offered by the government. The veteran Sandinist fighters, approximately 38 years old, said: If the government delivers "land and creates jobs for the workers, then we will think about the amnesty." Gallegos accused the government of being a "crook" and stated that he holds no resentment against the Army despite the fact, he said, that the Army is fighting him as if this were "a personal matter."

The newsmen reported that Gallegos' comrade in arms wore camouflage uniforms and carried AK-47 rifles.

Rebels Begin Withdrawal

PA2207213193 Paris AFP in Spanish 2104 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Managua, 22 Jul (AFP)—Various sources report that combatants of the Peasant-Worker Revolutionary

Front (FROC), who seized the city of Esteli, 150 km north of Managua, on the afternoon of 21 July, began to withdraw to the mountains on the afternoon of 22 July, after facing an unequal fight with Army troops.

Esteli Bishop Abelardo Mata told a local station that "those men realized they were lost and decided to flee, while others began to surrender."

Group of Rebels Willing To Surrender

PA2207214493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2020 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Managua, 22 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Managua radio stations reported on 22 July that an undetermined number of rearmed retired Sandinist soldiers who attacked Esteli have announced they will surrender to the authorities.

A group of 43 rearmed soldiers currently occupying the mayor's office in Esteli is waiting for a representative from the Special Disarmament Brigades (BED) to deliver their weapons, the reports noted.

Another group, the number of which has not been specified, posted at the Alejandro Davila Hospital apparently to take care of their wounded comrades, also expressed their desire to lay down their weapons and surrender to the government troops.

The city of Esteli remained calm after the members of the irregular forces announced their desire to stop fighting, although there is still some groups resisting the Army and the police in some sectors.

For the first time in the past 24 hours, there were people in the streets, even though there are high tension cables on the ground in various parts of the city. [passage omitted]

Restoration of Order Complete

PA2207230593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2052 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Professor Joaquin Lobo, acting government minister, by unidentified reporters in Managua—live]

[Text] [Reporter] Professor Joaquin Lobo, we at Radio Nicaragua want to know and we want to tell our people about the latest events in Esteli. Go ahead.

[Lovo] We want to take advantage of this opportunity to tell citizens that the operations to restore order in Esteli ended at approximately 1500 [2000 GMT] on 22 July. This criminal action, which has no precedence in the history of Nicaragua, unfortunately resulted in the death of two government soldiers and two injuries. In addition, 60 civilians were injured and two were killed, including a child, 25 of the criminals were killed, 69 surrendered unconditionally to government forces, and 28 of the criminals were injured, who are being held as prisoners. Water and power services are being restored. Telephone service should be restored within the next five or ten minutes in the areas where the telephone lines were undamaged. We do not have any evaluation of the property damage, but we do know damage was done to some buildings, both government and private buildings. We believe order is being restored. The people have begun walking the streets of Esteli. Their faces still register their surprise about these criminal actions. The government, through the Social Action Ministry, the [word indistinct], the Health Ministry, the Nicaraguan Aqueducts and Sewage Institute, Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute, in coordination with the Government Ministry. They will be evaluating the damage immediately and will take measures that will counter the damage suffered by the residents of Esteli.

That is what we have to say to citizens in general at this time. There is peace and calm in Esteli now, after 25 hours of acts of vandalism by a group of rearmed criminals. Thanks to the efforts of the government forces [five-second break in reception] the police, order has been restored [22-second break in reception]

[Reporter, in progress]...could be expected from other groups that are still active in the area, since the operation, which lasted only 25 hours, ended with the total defeat of irregular forces, which did not receive any support from the civilian population.

[Lovo] It is important that other groups not try to manipulate the government's offer to accept the amnesty law that the president will be sending to the National Assembly for its approval. It is important, because this action in Esteli has shown that the majority of the Nicaraguan people, most citizens, regardless of their political or ideological affiliation [five-second break in reception] disguised as protests, through weapons. This action is condemnable. In addition, the residents of Esteli and the Nicaraguan people witnessed how a group that maintained talks with the Special Disarmament Brigades, BED, openly committed criminal actions. It was a double crime, because it was a malicious act, and those who participated in it did not keep their word. This makes us redouble our efforts.

I also want to take this opportunity to issue a call to those groups to join quickly [10-second break in reception], to remember the deadlines established by the amnesty law, and the process we have established for their orderly and peaceful disarmament. None of those guidelines or dates will be violated. Crimes committed after 12 June will not be forgiven, they should be inside the special zones by 31 July, and should disarm before 31 August. Those are very specific and exact dates. This is an invitation to them to make a decision for their homeland, for Nicaragua, and to work together for reconciliation, order, peace, and production.

[Reporter] Professor Joaquin Lovo, what status will the prisoners have, and where will they be sent?

[Lovo] They will be treated as what they are: common criminals, and will be tried as such.

[Reporter] What about Pedrito El Hondureno?

[Lovo] We are still searching for him in some parts of Esteli, as he could still be hiding there. We are also looking for him in the mountains.

[Reporter] Finally, Minister Lovo, what message do you have for the civilian population in Esteli?

[Lovo] More than anything else, I send the civilian population in Esteli, who have gone through a difficult situation, a message of solidarity from the Nicaraguan Government. They have our total support and we express our deep condolences for the loss of valuable human lives, and we are also sorry for those who were injured. We regret the sad moments and the anguish they have endured, due to the presence of Pedrito El Hondureno and his band of criminals. This should make us meditate on the need to strengthen our desire for peace [eight-second break in reception]...the heroism that the people of Esteli have always shown, which can be expressed by joining efforts toward reconciliation, and maintaining hope and faith in the future.

We will be traveling to Esteli very soon with a government delegation to review the situation with local authorities and to personally see what happened in that city.

State of Emergency Ruled Out

PA2207231693 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Jul 93 p 1

[Text] The government has ruled out the possibility of decreeing a state of emergency. According to Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal, the government spokesman, President Chamorro has ordered the Army and police to deal with the situation in Esteli.

At the end of another attempt to hold a dialogue between the government and UNO [National Opposition Union], Leal, who represented the president, said the Esteli events "are condemnable."

The UNO leaders, cautious about the events in northern Nicaragua, only commented that everything is a result of the government's lack of decisions in seeking political stability. Miriam Arguello said the Chamorro administration is responsible for what is occurring. "The government should find a solution, and we have extended our hand," she stressed.

Eli Altamirano, who compared UNO with the church, stated that both "institutions lack coercive power," and that the seizure of Esteli is part of the chaos and the absence of order in the country. "The events in Esteli are worrisome, but the issue of disarmament has been like a game; the weapons are surrendered, they are hidden, then they appear, and are used for blackmail; this has become an interminable situation," he said.

Army Reports Defeat of Rebels

PA2307010293 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0020 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Communique No. 05-93 issued by the Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS, General Command in Managua on 22 July]

[Text] The Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the General Command of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] reports to national and international public the following:

1. At 1430 [1930 GMT] on 22 July, EPS troops successfully concluded the military operations against the rebel forces that at 1400 on 21 July violently entered the city of Esteli, disrupting public order and peace and bringing grief and mourning to the Nicaraguan family.

2. As a result of the firm and effective action by the EPS, the subversive group was disbanded and defeated in 24 hours in Esteli. Military operations continue in the rural areas in pursuit of the rebel bands.

3. The result of the clashes is as follows:

- Rebels: 41 dead; 45 injured; 59 captured; total: 145 casualties.
- Our troops: 2 dead; 13 injured; total: 15 casualties.
- Civilians: 2 dead; 40 injured; total: 42 casualties.
- Total: 45 dead; 98 injured; 59 captured.
- Grand total: 202 casualties.

In addition, the following were seized: 75 rifles; one RPG-7; one RPK machine gun; and one M-79 grenade launcher.

4. The EPS High Command expresses recognition of the patriotism of the two heroic members of the EPS and National Police who sacrificed their lives in fulfillment of their duty. At the same time, it regrets the suffering that the actions of the rebel forces caused to the people of Esteli, who resolutely supported our institution, contributing to the defeat of the subversive group.

5. General Humberto Ortega Saavedra, commander in chief of the EPS, through this means, expresses recognition of the chiefs, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of our institution and the members of the National Police and the Government Ministry who, with their professionalism, military skills, and combat readiness, successfully concluded the mission they were given.

[Issued] Managua, 22 July 1993

[Signed] Public and Foreign Relations Directorate of the EPS General Command

FSLN National Directorate Communique

PA2307012193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate in Managua on 21 July]

[Text] The National Directorate of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], in light of the occupation of the city of Esteli by armed groups headed by the leader known as "Pedro El Hondureno," states:

1. We strongly condemn these actions that have jeopardized the lives of hundreds of persons in the city of Esteli. The political rhetoric used by the leaders of these groups cannot serve to justify criminal behavior. All the Sandinists and all Nicaraguans who demand peace must reject these actions and those of any other similar group, regardless of the political ideologies under which they may seek shelter.

2. We demand that they immediately leave the city of Esteli and cease to threaten the lives and safety of its inhabitants and of all the Segovias, now and in the future.

3. We regret that there have been victims as a result of these attacks and demand respect for the physical safety and liberation of all the civilians, military personnel, and police who may be held by the assailants.

4. We demand that the government act with extreme prudence and responsibility in order to preserve the safety of the thousands of citizens who have been turned into innocent hostages by these actions. They are the government's foremost responsibility.

5. The FSLN once again demands that the government react in light of the justified demands of a people cornered by hunger and unemployment and who, in their desperation, have become easy prey for those who manipulate them in order to carry out criminal actions. While the government remains insensitive, as it has up to now, the violence and desperate acts will not end.

[Issued] Managua, 21 July 1993
[Signed] FSLN National Directorate

Retired Officers Ask For 'Prudence'

PA2307012493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 22 Jul 93 p 12

[Text] After learning of the military operation to dislodge the rearmed individuals who seized Esteli, high ranking retired officers of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army] demanded on the night of 21 July that the government and General Humberto Ortega "not use force and act with prudence."

The retired officers asked the Chamorro government to establish a mediation commission formed by Cardinal Miguel Obando, Reverend Miguel Angel Casco, Dr. Vilma Nunez, Lino Hernandez Trigueros, and a delegate from the CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification] so they will immediately go to the site of the conflict.

In a communique, the former officers said the commission should open talks with Pedrito El Hondureno [Victor Manuel Gallego Hernandez] to obtain a negotiated solution to the conflict.

"We call on the extremist political parties to adopt a patriotic position and not to incite confrontation. That is what the APO-UNO [Political Opposition Alliance-National Opposition Union] parties are doing. Those parties have irresponsibly withdrawn from the national dialogue."

The retired EPS officers said that the government has "mocked" the rearmed individuals by not keeping its promises for their return to the country's social, economic, and political life.

The document is signed by the following retired officers: Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Agurcia; Majors Donald Mendoza, Frnacisco Calvo, and Ivan Morazan; Captains Irving Lopez and Leonel Agurcia Moncada; and Lieutenants Anastasio Hernandez, Rogere Garcia, and Fidencio Duarte.

Government Ministry Communique

PA2307025393 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0136 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Communique issued by the Government Ministry Directorate of Public Relations and Press in Managua on 22 July]

[Text] Regarding the situation in the city of Esteli as a result of the attack and vandalistic actions directed by rearmed leader Victor Manuel Gallego Hernandez, also known as Pedrito El Hondureno, against the residents of that northern city, the Government Ministry reports:

At 1430 [1930 GMT] on 22 July, after 24 hours of heavy fighting, government forces managed to restore calm and public order in the city of Esteli.

The armed bands, consisting of approximately 150 armed men, held up several banks, attacked police posts, and occupied important positions in the Davila Bolanos Hospital and other points in the central area of the city, endangering lives, and preventing the Red Cross from conducting its humanitarian work.

This action, which has been repudiated and censured by citizens in general, particularly the people of Esteli, left a toll of 45 dead and 98 injured, distributed as follows:

Deaths: 41 members of the vandalistic group, 2 members of the government forces, 2 civilians: one adult and one minor.

Injured: 45 members of the vandalistic forces, 13 from government forces, and 40 civilians.

We have also been informed that 59 members of the vandalistic forces surrendered without any conditions. The leaders, however, have not surrendered and are being pursued by the police.

The weapons confiscated from this irregular force consist of 78 weapons: 75 rifles, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, one RPK machine gun, and one M-79 grenade launcher.

The Government Ministry condemns these unfortunate events that have brought mourning and pain to the Nicaraguan family due to the irreparable loss of lives. We urge the various armed groups to accept the plan for disarmament and peace proposed by President Violate Barrios de Chamorro.

The Government Ministry informs the citizens of Esteli that, following instructions from the Presidency, an official delegation headed by the Government Ministry and representatives from the Social Action and Health Ministries, the Nicarguan Institute of Energy, the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute, and the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services, will travel to that city on 23 July to evaluate the human and material damage caused by this attack.

[Issued] Managua, 22 July 1993
[Signed] Government Ministry Directorate of Public Relations and Press

Panama

Article Accuses UN of Spearheading U.S. Imperialism

PA2207215893 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jul 93 p 18a

[Article by sociologist Olmedo Beluche: "United Nations, Spearhead of Yankee Interventionism"]

[Text] Recent developments in Somalia have revealed a well-known fact, that intervention by U.S. troops and the UN in that country was not to provide "noble humanitarian aid" or to feed the hungry. The goal of imperialist intervention is to impose a government favorable to U.S. interests.

Early this year there were reports that Somalis were taking to the streets in protest over the foreign troop presence in their country. U.S. troops put down some demonstrations by unarmed civilians, killing a few people. As the mobilization consolidated, U.S. troops hastened to withdraw to allow other countries, including Pakistan, to do the dirty work of repression, and as a result, many people died at the hands of the "blue helmets."

The Somalis are hungry, but they are not helpless; Pakistani troops occupying Mogadishu were given a taste of their own medicine. When it became apparent that the Pakistanis could not handle the situation the Yankee government sent its troops back, dropping not bales of rice but bombs and bullets of fire, thus killing more innocent civilians.

Tens of thousands of people are increasingly taking to the streets to protest the UN and U.S. military presence. This is seen in television reports coming out of Somalia. Using the same tactics it used in Panama and Iraq and with the support of its UN subordinates, the Pentagon is claiming that this is all due to the actions of a "monster" and "murderer" named General Aidid, whom U.S. "justice" must lock up in prison.

The "humanitarian" facade has collapsed. The gringos want to eliminate a political faction they do not control, the one represented by Gen. Aidid, in order to impose a submissive one. This behavior by the U.S. Government and the UN contradicts the alleged goals and methods promoted by the UN, now being questioned by many.

Can the UN intervene in a country against the will of the majority of its population? If the goal of UN troops is to "pacify" conflict zones or provide "humanitarian aid," how can they try to topple a faction with a military offensive that could claim many innocent lives?

According to criteria imposed since the Persian Gulf War by the United States and the rest of powers that comprise the UN Security Council, the main role of the "blue helmets" is that of policemen serving the imperialist order.

Even UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has said openly that the principles of national sovereignty and self-determination must be flexible to allow the UN to intervene in a country, not only against the will of an established government, but against the will of its people.

The UN's obvious role as the spearhead of U.S. imperialism's interventionist policy should not surprise us. In a world characterized by increasing popular rebellion against the hunger imposed by the great powers through the IMF and World Bank, it is logical that the great powers would join forces to impose submission through the UN. This is even truer when the United States, which has been weakened by its own internal crisis, is no longer capable of carrying on as the sole guardian of capitalism, a role it has played since World War II.

Argentina

Lawmakers Criticize Menem for Statements on Cuba

PY2107221693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1237 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jul (NA)—Radical Deputies Raul Baglini, Victor De Martino, and Carlos Raimundi and Intransigent Party [PI] President Rene Irurzun expressed their rejection of the statements made by President Carlos Menem about the Cuban Government.

In a press declaration signed by the leader of the Radical deputies bloc, Raul Baglini, and his colleague Martino, the deputies state: "The Argentine president is a new interpreter of U.S. foreign policy and he demonstrated it in his recent statements about the Cuban Government."

"Boasting about his intuition, Menem warned that Clinton's policy would follow the same path and, as always, anticipating himself, he has become the new spokesman of the 'moral imperialism' without understanding that it is an essential prerequisite to apply at home the total defense of the values promoted for other states," Baglini and De Martino stated.

Meanwhile, Deputy Raimundi yesterday presented a bill in which he repudiates the statements made by President Menem and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella regarding the situation of the Central American country governed by Fidel Castro.

Raimundi believes the statements by Menem and Di Tella "not only break a long Argentine tradition of not intervening in other countries' affairs but they also constitute a total lack of seriousness and a contradiction of Argentine foreign policy."

In turn, PI President Irurzun said that "Menem has no moral authority to criticize Castro," and he said the Argentine president "is trying to win over the United States and he does not realize that the blockade against Cuba is beginning to be questioned even in the United States."

Irurzun, who is in Havana participating in the San Pablo forum [not further specified], made these statements through a press communique from his party's National Committee in which he states: "Menem should come close to the heroic Cuban people to observe a real example of struggle and solidarity."

Opposition Apologizes To Cuba

PY2207131093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2254 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Jul (NA)—The National Committee of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] today apologized "to Latin American peoples, and especially to the Republic of Cuba, who were offended by a president, who is temporary, but not by the people, who are the only permanent factors of the nation."

In this way the main opposition party expressed its disagreement with President Menem's reiterated statements on Fidel Castro and on the Cuban situation. Such statements became stronger after the Ibero-American Summit in Salvador, and after the failure to arrange a meeting between the two presidents.

In a press communique the UCR stated that "those who adopted exaggerated positions, like publicly demanding the breaking of diplomatic relations with the United States after the raid on Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's house in Libya, today ignore principles to support the dictates of that power."

The communique added that "those who were friends, if not the beneficiaries of the Cuban regime, now repudiate it."

For these reasons, the UCR lamented that the president, "blinded by his obsession over perpetuating his hold on power, has attempted to become a mediator between Cuba and the United States, and after being rejected by both countries, ended up offending the Cuban Government and all the chiefs of state who attended the Ibero-American Summit."

The UCR leadership felt "it had the right to appeal to Argentina's best international traditions" to apologize to all Latin American peoples, "especially to the Cuban people."

Alfonsin Calls for 'Democratic Transition' in Cuba

PY2307022193 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2023 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jul (NA)—Former President Raul Alfonsin today called for a "democratic transition" in the Republic of Cuba that, in his judgment, would demand "a process that would take some years." He added that several models of transition toward a pluralist democracy have emerged in Latin America, "none of which can be considered better than the others."

During a breakfast with foreign correspondents accredited in Buenos Aires, Alfonsin said there is a situation in Cuba in which "human rights are denied because there is no political pluralism."

When asked whether he considers the Cuban chief of state, Fidel Castro, a dictator, he said: "He is within the Marxist idea of dictatorship by the proletariat, which is handled within that type of thinking."

"I think the idea is that we must work in a process that will take some years so as to reach a solution without any bloodshed, without pain and without any hunger," he added.

Alfonsin said that each process toward democracy in Latin America has been different, and cited Chile as example, where "a dictator remains as chief of the Armed Forces."

He added: "Each country in Latin America has had its own transition. I think no one can suppose that one is better than the others. For instance, the Chilean transition is not the same as ours. Chile still has a dictator as chief of the Armed Forces. And no one would think of asking President (Patricio) Aylwin to do what we have done concerning human rights."

Regarding the eventual transition in Cuba, he said: "I believe there could be a different development in this case, which could begin with freedom of migration, with which the United States must cooperate."

Bolivia

President Paz Labels Chile 'Indolent Adversary'

PY2307015693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1906 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] La Paz, 22 Jul (EFE)—Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora today took a step back in his policy of rapprochement toward Chile by labeling that country as an "indolent adversary." Paz added that Chile is concerned about the economic repercussions of the Bolivian-Peruvian project in the port of Ilo.

In a speech—which took military chiefs by surprise—to celebrate the 66th anniversary of the creation of the National Security Council in Miraflores Garrison, Paz Zamora said that "Chile will be the one to come knocking on our door" to ask for the solution to the Bolivian maritime problem.

The "Ilo strategy" that will divert to that Peruvian port all the Bolivian cargo that now goes through the Chilean ports of Arica and Antofagasta "introduces a battering ram at the very same site where the problem must be resolved for the indolent adversary (Chile) to feel it," said Paz Zamora.

Peru granted Bolivia the administration of the Ilo port for 50 years in addition to a free industrial zone and a 5-km coastline for tourism in January 1992 to alleviate the problems caused by the landlocked situation.

"The Armed Forces should understand very well: If we do not turn the Bolivian maritime problem into an economic problem for Chile we will not be able to solve it," said Paz Zamora, who concludes his presidential term in 14 days.

For the first time Chile will begin to feel the problem within its country and will have to satisfy the demands of the middle class and the oligarchy of northern Chile, who will demand the restitution of one of the main sources of income for the region: Bolivian cargo through the ports of Arica and Antofagasta, said 54-year-old President Paz Zamora.

Paz Zamora said: "I say as a premonition: Bolivia will not have to knock on anybody's door." He added that Chile will come to Bolivia to say: "Well now Bolivians, let us solve the pending problem once and for all."

The Bolivian president was clear in saying: "It will be in the Chilean interest to resolve the maritime problem because by resolving our problem they also will resolve their own problem."

Paz Zamora pointed out that the idea of concentrating all the traffic of Bolivian cargo in Ilo in the detriment of northern Chilean ports will be at the end a "strategy of integration and peace."

"Bolivia does not want to attack anybody," said Paz who added that the plan "proposes that by resolving its maritime problem, Bolivia will gain northern Chile and southern Peru." Paz Zamora will visit Ilo next week.

He added: "It is a pragmatic strategy without any false pretenses that introduces a battering ram at the very same site where the problem must be resolved for the indolent adversary to feel it."

Bolivia has a 100-year-old demand to put an end to its landlocked situation after an 1879 war with Chile in which it lost its sea coast on the Pacific.

The Paz Zamora speech that created "surprise" in Chilean diplomatic circles goes against the spirit of a communique signed by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronaldo MacLean and his Chilean counterpart, Enrique Silva Cimma, after an informal meeting in Salvador, Bahia (Brazil), during the Third Ibero-American Summit.

In a communique released jointly only about 72 hours ago, the two foreign ministers not only congratulated each other for the progress made in their relations but expressed hopes for overcoming the differences that still prevail "in relation to determined specific issues."

The daily LA RAZON of La Paz in an editorial in today's issue praised the joint declaration by saying that there is a good environment for the reestablishment of full diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Chile, which were broken 31 years ago [as published].

Brazil

Federal Revenue Office To Begin New Antievasion Campaign

PY2307012393 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The Federal Revenue Office will begin a new campaign to fight fiscal tax evasion. It does not want to

waste another day on collecting the provisional tax on financial operations [IPMF].

The IPMF will be implemented on 15 August, as reported by Federal Revenue Office Secretary Ozires Lopez Filho, who said that banks have already been given the necessary period to implement the IPMF. He added that the government will wait for the resolution concerning requests submitted to the courts by some taxpayers on the payment of the IPMF, to then resort to the Supreme Federal Court.

[Begin Lopez Filho recording] We will wait for the decision of the federal court on the matter, especially following the ruling by the regional federal courts. [end recording]

On 26 July, the Federal Revenue Office will begin a new campaign against fiscal tax evasion. Secretary Lopez Filho declined to provide details of the program that will affect several states throughout the country, but said that the Federal Revenue Office will oversee all sectors to prevent evasion.

Government To Allow Free Imports To Control Domestic Prices

PY2307023993 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The government will not control prices by decree. However, it has threatened to free imports if price abuses are committed.

The government has reviewed its accounts and likes what it has found. It has managed to cut $8.5 billion from its expenses, and tax collection has increased 33 percent compared with last year. This is the result of tighter fiscal control and the growing number of contributors willing to negotiate their debt with the Revenue Office.

Such is the balance two months after the implementation of the Immediate Action Plan. The economic team admits that the income policy was not a priority. But since society insists, the government cannot relax its effort to curb inflation. The economic team has sent a message to those who are taking advantage of this period of wage adjustment negotiations to increase prices: It is a crime that must be punished.

[Begin government economic adviser Edmar Bacha, identified by screen caption, recording] In those sectors controlled by monopolies and oligopolies, the government will act through legal antitrust mechanisms and will allow the free importation of goods.

There is no mechanism to control prices; the government does not intend, it does not want, and it will not intervene in the price-setting process in the market, except to guarantee free competition. [end recording]

The importation of products to combat high domestic prices will be made through an interministerial agency still to be created.

Navy Reportedly Studying Floating Nuclear Plant for Amazon

PY2307024793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Jul 93 p 10

[Article by Clayton Levy]

[Text] Campinas—The Navy's Coordinating Board for Special Projects (Copesp) is studying the possibility of building a floating nuclear plant on the Amazon River. This was revealed by Ennio Peres da Silva, a specialist in energy planning at Campinas State University (Unicamp), who was consulted about the project's viability. According to Da Silva, the idea is technically feasible, but from an environmental viewpoint it is very risky. "An accident caused by a nuclear leak into the Amazon's rivers would be a catastrophe," he told ESTADO News Agency.

Da Silva stressed that Unicamp technicians were informally consulted on the matter toward the end of 1992. According to the specialist, the project has the objective of guaranteeing the supply of energy to isolated Amazon communities, which today depend exclusively on diesel fuel for the generation of electricity. The diesel fuel is transported precariously by river, thus causing constant interruption in the supply of electricity.

According to the specialist, a small nuclear plant (PCN) would be mounted on a vessel, which would tour the communities. The floating plant would have the capability of generating 100 megawatts of energy, sufficient to supply a town of 30,000 inhabitants. The vessel would stay one day in each community, where it would deposit hydrogen, which then would be transformed into electricity. The same technology that has been developed for the construction of the first nuclear submarine in the Aramar Experimental Center in Ipero would be used in this project. Ivan Serpa, an adviser to the Navy minister, says he knows nothing about this project.

Argentine, Brazilian Nuclear Inspection Program Criticized

PY2307032293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Jul 93 p 8

[Text] Recife—Brazil and Argentina have an agreement that bans the manufacture of nuclear weapons and promotes mutual inspection, but the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for the Control of Nuclear Materiel (ABACC) still does not have an exact inventory of the uranium and plutonium stocks in the two countries. This charge was made on 13 July by scientists who participated in the meeting of the Brazilian Society for Scientific Development (SBPC) in Recife.

Fernando de Souza Barros, of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), said: "That agency already has received reports, but the technicians have not confirmed these reports with inspection visits."

The bilateral agreement for mutual inspection was approved in 1992 by the two countries' congresses. Souza Barros stated on 13 July that until now the agency's efficiency and its implementation as an instrument for the control of nuclear weapons is an unknown factor.

According to the specialists, another problem blocking the implementation of understanding between the two countries is the fact that the Brazilian Congress has not approved the agreement, while Argentina already has, between the two countries through which the two countries will rationalize the inspections together with the ABACC and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Physicist Luis Pinguelli Rosa, also of the UFRJ, has indicated that although Brazil has opened up its nuclear sector, it still is very restricted in the military sphere, mainly in the Navy, which is working on a nuclear submarine project. And he suggested that the subject should come under the command of the Science and Technology sphere instead of being under the sphere of the Strategic Affairs Secretariat. The scientists proposed that pressure be applied on Congress so the nuclear program will be open and clear-cut.

Chile

Aylwin on Ibero-American Summit, Cuba, Central America

PY2207154693 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 18 Jul 93 pp A1, A17

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin said yesterday that it is very positive for Chile that the Third Ibero-American Summit of heads of state and government had reached a consensus on ideas and principles that our country has repeatedly upheld and applied in its domestic and foreign policies.

He emphasized that a consensus was reached on the necessity to strengthen the democratic system as an essential foundation for peace, liberty, and coexistence among nations; that poverty should be considered a priority target; and that economic growth should be coupled with social justice.

"These ideas, which we have repeatedly and permanently upheld, and which have inspired our government action, were almost unanimously supported at the Salvador Summit, and this is very encouraging for us," the Chilean president emphasized.

He noted that the summit was very fruitful in the area of bilateral relations, because it allowed him to meet with his Latin American, Spanish, and Portuguese colleagues, with whom he addressed a series of subjects of common interest, searching for solutions to pending problems.

Within this context, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma announced that four presidents will visit our country within the next few months. They are Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, who will visit Chile between 6 and 8 September; Brazilian President Itamar Franco, who will visit Chile between 17 and 20 September; Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who will visit Chile between 13 and 14 October; and Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran, who will visit Chile between 17 and 18 October.

Aylwin and his entourage returned to our country at about 1730 yesterday after participating in the aforementioned summit on 15 and 16 July. The previous summits had been held in Madrid, Spain, in 1991 and in Guadalajara, Mexico, last year.

Before returning to Chile, the president attended a ceremony yesterday at noon in which the Latin American Parliament's permanent headquarters were solemnly inaugurated in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

At the airport Aylwin was met by Enrique Krauss, the vice president of the Republic; acting Foreign Minister Rodrigo Diaz Albonico; and acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco, among other officials.

In one of the airport's VIP rooms, a power transfer ceremony was held. During the ceremony Krauss transferred power to the president of the Republic and resumed his duties as interior minister.

Afterwards, there was a news conference in which Aylwin discussed the summit, whose key issue was studying an agenda for international development with emphasis on social development.

Aylwin emphasized that all the principles being upheld by Chile and applied in its domestic and foreign policies were fully shared by other governments.

Aylwin expressed his satisfaction over the existing consensus that strengthening democracy was an essential foundation for peace, liberty, and coexistence among nations; that poverty should be considered a priority target, assuming that the strengthening of democracy, world peace, and sound international coexistence are closely linked to meeting the people's basic requirements; and that in order to defeat this scourge, economic growth should be coupled with social justice.

Aylwin also focused on the large number of bilateral meetings. He especially mentioned his meetings with Central American presidents. Aylwin had scheduled a Central American tour that was finally cancelled.

Aylwin noted that Chile is interested in approaching Central America, and that this concern is also shared by other governments in our area.

The Cuban Issue

Concerning his meeting with Cuban President Fidel Castro, Aylwin pointed out that Castro told him that the trade embargo against his country is seriously harming children and old people. Aylwin said the Cuban president asked for solidarity from the Latin American countries so that this situation could e[illegible]

Concerning this petition, Aylwin said that "there is no specific Chilean response" and that it is an issue that is being studied.

Aylwin said: "Some presidents—interpreting a more or less widespread sentiment, I would say—conveyed to him our favorable approach to this solidarity, but also the necessity that Cuba take effective steps toward a democratization process."

Asked if he had noticed in Castro any willingness to advance toward democracy, Aylwin responded that there were no specific negotiations, only broad proposals. Aylwin added that he harbors hopes that these timetables will be met.

Aylwin noted: "I personally believe that both an end to the blockade and a willingness to advance toward democratization represent important factors for the development of the Cuban nation and the stability of peace in this part of the world."

Asked if Cuba's possible reintegration into the Inter-American system had been discussed, Aylwin said no. In response to another question, he made it clear that a democratization process involves, of course, solving the problem of political prisoners.

Presidential Candidate Frei Interviewed

PY2207221493 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Interview with Chilean Senator Eduardo Frei, presidential candidate of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, CPPD, by Paraguayan reporter Stella Ruffinelli in Chile; date not given—recorded; interview broadcast during the "In Detail" program hosted by journalist Benjamin Fernandez Bogado]

[Text] [Ruffinelli] Eduardo Frei is a senator for the CPPD. He is the CPPD presidential candidate for the December general elections. In 1989, the CPPD took Patricio Aylwin to La Moneda Palace.

Described as a candidate who would follow the line of the current government, Frei spoke to us at his campaign headquarters in the Providencia district of Santiago. He spoke about why he would continue the policy of this government, why the CPPD was successful in Santiago, and about his government plans.

[Frei] I believe the Aylwin government has been successful, first because it was backed by the coalition. This means it has been a government with a majority bloc in Congress. In Latin America, the government normally has minority in Congress. The idea here was to create a major political coalition that would not only last through the transition period, but one that would give stability to the process; that is, political, social, and economic stability to the country. Second, because President Aylwin has repeatedly stated that we represent a historical trend in the country. We do not regard ours as a founding government; that is, we are not starting from square one. It is also commonplace in Latin America that each new government believes it is absolutely right and that it has a magic wand to solve all existing problems.

[Ruffinelli] Are you saying that you have put that messianic attitude behind you in Chile?

[Frei] Yes, I think so. We must also state that the democratic and socioeconomic progress of any country is not a task for just one government, it is spread throughout the history of that country. Chile has its history. The Aylwin government has always stated that we would restore our democratic history, but it also made it clear that we are going to continue the achievements of the recent past. What we consider to be wrong will be changed in accordance with the Constitution and the law. There is a third factor, which I believe to be essential, a feasibility which we have proved in recent years—and that is the need to promote development and social justice at the same time. This is the major difference between this government and the previous one. After some very difficult times, the previous government began a development process.

I recently commented to the president that, in 1982, 35 percent of our work force was laid off and we lost 17 percent of our production. In 1989, the CPPD inherited a country with 5 million Chileans living in poverty.

A sharp economic adjustment had taken place in this country under the authoritarian atmosphere. Under the Aylwin government, we have continued this adjustment and Chilean economic figures are today the best in 30 years while at the same time we are investing 65 percent of our budget in social programs. We are incorporating those 5 million Chileans living in poverty into the productive process. This is the reason for the great support enjoyed by the Aylwin government. Recent polls have shown that President Aylwin enjoys the support of 70 percent of the people.

What have we promised? That we will continue this government, that we will continue and deepen the line established by a great government. For the first time in 60 years we have a chance to continue a process. This is very important.

For instance, those Asian countries which are progressing and developing at an incredible rate have implemented political and socioeconomic policies for about 30 or 40 years. This is not done in Latin America. Today, Chile has a chance to continue a political process. Thus, I hereby state that I will continue this government. We are of course prepared to deal with other tasks and other

realities. As I said earlier, we will continue and deepen the task of a great government.

[Ruffinelli] You just claimed that social justice has been achieved in Chile. How do you think you were able to do this in a region like Latin America where there is growing poverty and unemployment. In your opinion, how have you managed the various economic factors to promote social justice?

[Frei] We have done that primarily through a tax reform that we implemented in 1990, whereby the CPPD, the opposition, and the business sector jointly established a tax system. Through this we were able to fund our social budget. Thus, our investments will not generate any fiscal deficit because this would fuel inflation and would generate foreign currency exchange and related problems. While preserving a macroeconomic balance, we will finance social investments. This is what the present government has been doing. It also implemented very clear policies in the areas of education, housing, health, and job training.

It is an ongoing task. No one can claim that we have resolved the problem, but we have made progress in the right direction and the people are aware of this.

[Ruffinelli] A discussion under way today in Chile focuses on the role played by the military during the dictatorship, especially the human rights cases. We asked Frei his opinion on this subject.

[Frei] I will start by citing a concept I believe to be essential in order to comprehend the Chilean process. The differences and the divisions between civilians and military men do not date back to the advent of the previous military regime, they go far back in Chilean history. I believe this division started in the 1930's. Thus, there is a history of civilian-military division. Thus, to adequately comprehend the Chilean process, one must consider relevant aspects of Chilean history since then.

Relations with the military have obviously been difficult for a government that replaced a 17 year old authoritarian regime. After exercising unrestricted power, without a system of checks and balances either in Congress or by the press, it has been very difficult for a civilian government to restore a system like the one we are implementing. On what has this system been based? First, it requires respect for those officials who were legitimately elected by the people and, second, that government and political officials respect the military professional role. These are the two basic principles.

What has President Aylwin said about this? That the path to follow is that of truth, justice, reconciliation, and forgiveness. We must all tread this path. Many human rights violation cases are being heard in court. This problem does not concern just the government. Chilean courts are independent. They are not controlled by either the government or Congress. The courts, which are parts of an independent branch of government, must resolve the cases of missing persons.

[Ruffinelli] Chileans are a bit reluctant to participate in integration processes such as the Common Market of the South [Mercosur] or the Andean Pact. You started your development process earlier and thus are at a more advanced stage. You are, therefore, not joining integration process. How do you view the possibility of integration? Is there credibility here about integration?

[Frei] We do not regard ourselves as the masters of any model or as miracle workers, nor do we believe we know all the answers. I believe we have just made our own experiment here. Each country is entitled to do that. We sought to strengthen bilateral relations with individual countries. We have done this with Argentina, Venezuela, Mexico, and others. I believe this is the way to go during this stage.

Now, what happens in integration processes? Various economies must seek agreements. What difficulties does Mercosur face today regarding Brazil? An agreement must be reached concerning tariffs, protectionism, dumping, monetary policy, and inflation. The [Argentine Economy Minister Domingo] Cavallo-2 plan lasted 24 hours because Brazil changed its monetary policy. We must reach agreements on labor and environmental policies. We are doing all this at a bilateral level. We strongly participate, however, in the Latin American Integration Association, in the Rio Group, and in the Ibero-American Summit—which incidentally we regard as very important because Spain and Portugal are channels through which we have access to the European Community. Hence, we must follow in this direction.

Just as we have made this effort, we believe all countries should move jointly and thus we may start moving toward integration. Chile is not reluctant to join integration processes. Through bilateral relations, we have demonstrated that we advocate integration. We trust that, after Mexico, Chile will join the treaty with the United States, which we regard as very important for Latin America. I would regard it as very positive and very important for our economies if Chile were to head a Latin American group in this effort.

[Ruffinelli] Corruption is today a major issue in democratic transition processes, proof of which are developments in Haiti, Venezuela, Argentina, the Collor case in Brazil, and Fujimori in Peru. We also put this question to Senator Frei.

[Frei] I regard corruption as a critical issue. In today's world, governments are no longer toppled by coup d'etats, but by corruption. This is unfortunate. This problem involves two factors: First, that a political leader must be unimpeachable in his conduct. A political leader cannot separate his public life from his private life. His life is one. When I became politically active full time, about seven or eight years ago, I sold all my company assets because I believe one must not engage in two activities at the same time. Politicians can only

follow one line of behavior. This is true not only for public servants, but for every citizen. An act of corruption is not the exclusive preserve of public servants; it requires the participation of another party, generally from the private sector. Corruption is a common problem for our societies and we must get to the bottom of it.

Fortunately, there are few pockets of corruption in Chile—possibly because we have never had major problems with the drug trade, which mobilizes a large amount of money. In this area, we must adopt stiff measures. We will do that because if we fail to address this problem head-on, it will ultimately corrupt our system.

[Ruffinelli] Conveying optimism in the upcoming general election, vowing to adopt a bilateral integration policy, and harboring the hope that Chile will lead an integration process with the northern countries—involving the agreement between Mexico, Canada, and the United States— Senator Frei is currently preparing for the December elections.

Opposition Deputies Reject Opening of FBI Office in Chile

PY2207223293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1605 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Santiago, 21 Jul (EFE)—Several opposition congressmen today expressed their rejection of the opening of a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Santiago.

A high-ranking police chief, however, has expressed support for the idea "as long as the rules of the game are clear."

The initiative was confirmed on 19 July by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who explained that the government had invited the FBI to open an office in Chile for the purpose of increasing bilateral cooperation in this field.

At that time, Krauss said the initiative involves cooperation and not intervention in Chilean domestic matters, which was confirmed by leaders of the ruling Coalition of Parties for Democracy.

A group of deputies from the rightist National Renewal Party (RN) today formally asked President Aylwin to withdraw the invitation based on the fact that the initiative goes against the legal order and violates Chilean sovereignty.

The Chilean Constitution establishes that the only organizations in charge of internal security are Carabineros (military police) and the Investigative Police (civilian), said Deputies Claudio Rodriguez, Francisco Bayo, Ramon Perez, and Baldo Prokurica.

They added that if the government wishes to maintain cooperative ties with the FBI, the correct procedure would be to negotiate bilateral agreements clearly specifying the type of cooperation, especially regarding the exchange of information and personal contacts.

Deputy Claudio Rodriguez said the installation of an FBI office in Chile is "not applicable" because the United States "has carried out actions that reflect a unilateral and discretional policy like the kidnapping of individuals wanted by U.S. law," an action that has been approved by a U.S. Supreme Court decision.

The FBI's presence "will facilitate the possibility of the United States intervening in Chile," said the RN deputies, who also asked the Foreign and Interior Ministries to investigate a recent telephone espionage attempt in Chile by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

The attempt affected Colombian drug trafficker Pablo Escobar's relatives, who left Chile on 19 July after staying in the country for 46 days.

Investigative Police Director Nelson Mery said he sees no inconvenience in the installation of an FBI office, "as long as the rules of the game are clear."

Mery said his institution "has a long history of cooperation" with the FBI, and many Chilean policemen have studied and graduated from the FBI Academy, "which has given us permanent support in pedagogic, training, and technical fields."

Mery said Chilean police have on many occasions resorted to the FBI criminology laboratories to obtain valid scientific evidence for the courts, and he denied that the installation of an FBI office in Chile would imply incapability by the Chilean organizations, but it will, rather, "reinforce and invigorate" bilateral cooperation.

'Double Standard' Seen in Paz Zamora's Speech on Chile

PY2307030393 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Report by Carmen Castro from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Bolivian diplomacy seems to have a double standard. One is the policy of agreements, communiques, and declarations made at the official level such as the latest one released by the foreign ministers of the two countries in which progress in relations are acknowledged, and also in which points of differences still pending are mentioned.

But today, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora delivered a very harsh speech in relation to Chile. Today President Paz Zamora attacked Chile, a country he labeled a quote, indolent adversary, unquote, in a speech before the Bolivian military command. Paz Zamora warned Chile that in the next few years it will economically suffer the consequences of the agreement signed

between the governments of La Paz and Lima allowing Bolivia to enjoy a free zone in the Peruvian port of Ilo. This is part of the speech.

This seems to be a normal Bolivian policy that, while it signs agreements and talks about the need for integration, it also makes an open play about the needs and prospects of the country that has a sea outlet as its fixed and central aspiration.

Before Paz Zamora's comments were known, we talked with Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma about the reticence existing in Bolivia about Chile. Silva Cimma said:

[Begin recording] Considering the case of two brother countries, two neighboring countries that necessarily have many common interests, the reasonable thing has been to seek points of agreement and not the points that divide us. This is what some people in Chile and Bolivia do not understand because I believe they have obsolete ideas. They want to continue insisting on the points that divide us. My answer is no. The determining factor of our policy with Bolivia in the last four years has been not to insist on what divides us but on the points that unite us. [end recording]

In Santiago, there was surprise over the comments by the Bolivian president, but at the same time we caught the feeling that there is a double standard between what is said and the silent diplomacy that is, in the end, what prevails with the signing of the integration agreements between the two nations.

I would like to reiterate that the comments by the Chilean foreign minister were made before Bolivian President Paz Zamora's speech was known.

Colombia

Joint Committee To Promote Japanese Investment

PA2207220993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—President Cesar Gaviria and (Terusuke Terada), the Japanese Foreign Ministry's director general for Latin America, announced the creation of a joint committee to promote Japanese investment in Colombia's economy.

Gaviria and Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin met with the Japanese official, whom President Gaviria decorated with the Order of San Carlos, one of Colombia's highest official decorations.

Foreign Minister Sanin said the bilateral committee will be installed before the end of the year, adding that the talks with Japanese authorities open new doors for Japanese investors and new investment opportunities.

We discussed Japanese links with the Colombian Government's program to look toward the Pacific, Foreign Minister Sanin noted, adding that Colombia recognizes the importance of the Pacific Rim.

Intelligence Sources Reveal New Medellin Cartel Hierarchy

PA2207170093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jul 93

[Text] One year after Pablo Escobar Gaviria's escape from Envigado prison, intelligence sources have finally been able to obtain information related to the composition of the new Medellin Cartel hierarchy. Despite hiding underground, Pablo Escobar still controls the Medellin drug cartel.

The military wing is headed by three experienced and well-known henchmen, each with five to 10 paid killers under their control. The three henchmen are known by their respective aliases of Risas, Serapio, and El Tuzo. There is ample information on all three of the hired killers and intelligence sources are now working on locating them.

The financial wing is managed by (Nicolas Bergonzoli). Police authorities are quite certain they where he is hiding. Other financial-wing members include Juan Carlos, alias El Latino, and Gustavo Gutierrez, alias Maxwell, who surrendered to the justice system but still continues to oversee cartel funds. Another prominent financial wing member is Jose Fernando Posada Fierro, alias Jaime Eduardo or Alejandro. He currently is imprisoned at Itagui maximum security prison, but is considered a key figure in managing cartel funds.

According to the Administrative Department of Security, soccer player Felipe Perez also appears as a member of the new Medellin Cartel hierarchy. Perez is a former member of the Nacional soccer club and Colombia's national youth soccer team. Intelligence sources are practically certain that Perez took an active part in the Galeano and Moncada [not further identified] murders.

Germany Rejects Escobar's Relatives Presence in Country

PA2307032193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 93

[Report by Liliana Gutierrez]

[Text] The attempts made by Pablo Escobar's relatives to stay in several countries have turned into a real odyssey and have caused diplomatic headaches for the countries he has visited. Pablo Escobar's nephew, Nicolas Escobar Urquijo, with several relatives, first went to Panama. Later on, they went to Santiago, Chile. The Chilean Government, however, expelled them on 30 June. Confronted with this action, Nicolas appealed the decision to the Chilean Supreme Court of Justice. Despite all the efforts made by lawyers, Escobar's relatives had to leave Santiago, Chile. A few days ago, they went to Europe and made stopovers at Buenos Aires, Sao Paolo, and Madrid.

On 20 July, they arrived in Frankfurt, Germany. The German Government initially reported they would be given a 90-day visa. On 22 July, however, the German Government rejected their presence in Germany and, according to information received from international cables, Nicolas Escobar Urquijo will have to continue to travel the world. Perhaps, this time, he will go to Singapore.

Paraguay

AWACS Allegedly To Detect Clandestine Airstrips

PY2207204293 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Jul 93 p 4

[Text] Even though the U.S. military mission in Paraguay is shrouded in secrecy, it is believed the AWACS plane is to be used to detect the hundreds of clandestine airstrips used by traffickers for peddling illegal drugs.

It is worth mentioning that, in the eyes of the United States, Paraguay is considered as a bridge country, a transit country for the great cartels that operate in South America.

A reliable report states that there are 400 landing strips in the Chaco alone. They are built in strategic places and are used by light aircraft that transport marijuana and cocaine. It must be recalled that many such aircraft loaded with drugs have come down in the Chaco, and in some cases their crews were captured.

The report adds that these landing strips are sometimes used by Paraguayans, but they are mainly used by foreigners. Having become internationalized, the situation has got virtually out of the control of the national authorities. A sparsely populated region like the Chaco facilitates the traffickers' activities.

Paraguay lacks the necessary equipment to detect aircraft in flight because the radar at the main international airport does not work as it should. Paraguayan military sources indicated that U.S. cooperation would seemingly be justified in this area.

Unofficial sources have estimated that there are 2,000 airports in forests and at ranches, most of which are not registered at the National Airports Directorate.

The surge in the number of clandestine landing strips has come to the attention of Paraguayan authorities. The presence of U.S. troops in the country will help to detect uncontrolled aerial navigation.

Uruguay

Government To Donate Medicines, Cleaning Products to Cuba

PY2207190093 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] The Uruguayan Government will, in the next few days, donate medicines and cleaning products to the Cuban Government. The United Nations supports the request by Fidel Castro's government.

Health Minister Guillermo Garcia Costa said the donation, which will not surpass $1,000, will be paid from Health Ministry funds. The date on which the donation will be made has yet to be confirmed. He added that even though the Cuban Government asked, experts will not be sent to Cuba. The donation will help to control the endemic neuropathy outbreak that is affecting more than 20,000 Cubans. In its most acute stage this illness causes blindness.

A Cuban Embassy official confirmed the donation request, adding that no official answer has yet been received. Minister Garcia Costa said that in answer to the Cuban Embassy request—which has the support of the United Nations—we are preparing vitamins, cleaning products, floor detergents, brooms and brushes, soap, and other articles.

Venezuela

Police Report Honorary Consul Found 'Safe and Sound'

PA2207171193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Juan Castro, honorary consul of Portugal, was found safe and sound, according to a report by the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] in Barquisimeto. The diplomat was allegedly found by his daughter at 1100 [1500 GMT] in the Manzana neighborhood of the Barquisimeto capital. It has not been confirmed if a ransom was paid for Castro's release. Meanwhile, in the next few hours a news conference will be held at the PTJ headquarters in Barquisimeto to report on the causes of this incident, which still have not been cleared up.

Students, Teachers Peacefully 'Take Over' Miraflores Palace

PA2107173393 Paris AFP in spanish 1628 GMT 21 Jul 93

[Text] Caracas, 21 Jul (AFP)—AFP reporters were able to confirm that on 21 July more than 100 Venezuelan national universities students and professors peacefully took over Miraflores Presidential Palace in central Caracas to protest the economic crisis in higher education.

The "takeover" took place without incident and under heavy police security. The action was accompanied by a public explanation of the magnitude of the crisis the universities are currently experiencing, including the possibility of closures, due to a 360-million bolivares deficit.

The public and students listened to the explanation while sitting in the middle of the main street in front of the presidential palace. A delegation headed by Venezuelan Central University (UCV) Rector Simon Munoz then handed interim President Ramon J. Velasquez a document analyzing the crisis and offering proposals to solve the budget problems undermining the national universities.

The document presents alternative proposals to overcome the budget crisis, including a partial external debt moratorium, an increase in import taxes on all luxury goods, and a program to locate uncollected tax revenues.

The decision to paralyze university activities was made at a national level and is part of several public activities organized by university authorities and students to prevent the closure of several education centers in September due to operational budget problems.

The economic cabinet decided this week to prepare a deferred payment agenda for 1994 that will affect all universities. The measure comes in response to cash flow problems in the executive branch created by a projected $5 billion fiscal deficit, or one third of the national budget.

University education is free in Venezuela.

Guyana

Unions Postpone Ultimatum, Await Government Proposal

FL2207231793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1843 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, July 22, CANA—Four public sector unions, asked Monday by government to set aside an ultimatum, have not received a document from the authorities detailing proposed wage hikes to civil servants, a trade union official said Wednesday [21 July].

Frank Nicholson, president of one of the four unions, the National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE), confirmed the unions were still awaiting the promised document up to early Wednesday afternoon. This document, he said, was expected since Tuesday, following a meeting the Umbrella Trades Union (UTC) had with President Cheddi Jagan Monday where he requested that the four unions put their ultimatum on hold until the presentation of the document.

The other three unions, the Public Service Union (PSU), the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (ATGWU), and the Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers (UAAW), and NUPSE represent more than half of unionised civil servants.

Nicholson said it appeared the Public Service Ministry, which is compiling a new wages proposal along with the World Bank, was not taking the matter "very seriously."

"The president himself invited the labour movement to cooperate with the government in assisting the government in raising the standard of living of the low-income workers and that's why we called off the ultimatum," the trade unionist told CANA.